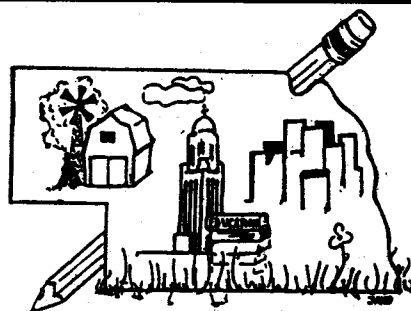


The Nebraska Observer

Vol. 6, No. 5, May 2 1991



Putting the Good Old Boys on Trial

City Planner Tells Story of Sexual Harassment

by Frances Mendenhall

The following story is based on a recent sex discrimination suit in federal court in Omaha, and on talks with the plaintiff.

Sex discrimination doesn't come with a bright orange label on it. No memo is sent out saying "you are being demoted because you're a bitch and we find your presence threatening." It is an elusive phenomenon, difficult to document in court.

Susan Ruby tried it last week. She sued the city of Omaha, former Planning Department Director S.P. Benson, and former Mayor Walt Calinger for sex discrimination. Her trial in federal court was the culmination of an Equal Employment Opportunity Commission charge made in July 1988. She had worked for the Omaha City Planning Department, with and for a group that the plaintiff's witnesses characterized repeatedly as "good old boys," since 1976.

Ruby began her career with the Planning Department as a recent college grad, with a masters degree in city planning, *summa cum laude*, from Wisconsin State University. At the time she was the only masters-level city planner; all the others were landscape architects. Her boss, S.P. Benson, was a high school graduate.

Ruby, like most non-department heads, held a civil service appointment. Her classification was "City Planner 2."

While department heads serve at the pleasure of the administration, and can be fired without cause, civil service appointees are protected and can be moved, but not fired by an incoming administration. In the course of her career she was to attempt to advance her standing to a City Planner 4. She never made it.

Ruby admits that she is stubborn and goal-directed. The defense was unable to bring up any complaints about her professional competence, and S.P. Benson even described her as having "extraordinary talent." As often happens in sex discrimination trials, the defense could counter the charges only by portraying Ruby as having qualities that would be seen as pluses for men: she was discourteous, interfering, disruptive, and—horror of horrors—frustrating to the goals of the developers.

There was no question in the trial that Ruby was denied promotions, and in one case demoted. There was also evidence of a double standard: in a similar sequence of events a male peer, Bob Peters, had achieved a promotion by "allocation," that is, in the absence of

a budgeted position that was up for competition. Somehow no such position was ever available to Ruby, and after she was promoted to a provisional spot, and assumed its duties, she was even removed from that spot at a salary loss of \$6,300. The defense questioned whether she was really doing "Planner 4" work. Ruby's attorney, Tom Dowd, argued that according to Gary Trautman, former personnel manager for the city, who had designed the job category, that the only difference between Planner 3 and Planner 4 was whether she reported directly to the director, which Ruby did. (During the period between 1983 and 1990, no Planner 4 positions were posted. But, just weeks after Ruby left in frustration early this year, one became available.)

On another occasion, Ruby and a male colleague, Jim Ecker, were criticized for being obstructionists to the developers (and aren't city officials *supposed* to guard the public's interest over special interests?). Somehow S.P. Benson came to the conclusion that while Ecker and Ruby were doing exactly the same thing, the behavior was objectionable when Ruby did it.

In April 1988, change in the department was imminent. Mayor Walt Calinger, serving out Bernie Simon's term after his death, was about to remove Marty Shukert from the top position in the department. S.P. Benson was about to get the job. Benson found out about the upcoming arrangement before Shukert knew. Benson gathered the faithful at a Sunday meeting at his home. All the assistant directors were invited. All, that is, except Ruby. The purpose was to figure out how to arrange the new hierarchy to the advantage of those present, at the expense of Ruby and Shukert. "Was it unusual that she wasn't invited?" attorney Dowd asked Bob Peters. "It smelled," responded Peters.

Soon after, Benson abolished Ruby's position as assistant director and ordered her to work under Steve Jensen, famous for the lipstick incident described below.

Later that year, Ruby was ousted from the department, and sent to the third floor to work in a new department created by Calinger. "She was punished for violating the chain of command," admitted defense attorney Wendy Hahn in closing arguments. The mayor and others recalled the events which led up to her transfer.

A problem had come up with the property adjacent to the new First National Bank at 114 and Dodge. The intersection was not big



enough to accommodate routine traffic. First National was going to have to make some changes. The Calinger administration sent Lou Lamberty to resolve things. It was important to work with First, Calinger recalled in his testimony, because the head of the bank had been so supportive of the ConAgra riverfront development project. Lamberty cut a deal with the bank in which, according to his testimony, the bank would bear \$100,000 of the needed improvement and the city would pay for the rest, \$260,000. As Ruby recalls it, the city essentially paid for the whole thing. Ruby and others thought the public had been shortchanged, and when asked by a city council staff member to provide that group with a document and information on the matter, she complied. Calinger was furious because Ruby had violated his order of sending documents first to the mayor's office, then through the legal department, and only then to city council. "I want her out of the chain," he recalled saying at the trial.

Late in 1988, Calinger was to transfer

Ruby to the third floor, but not before Ruby filed an EEOC charge. Did Calinger, who was a defendant, know about the complaint? He denied it on the stand. Defendants in EEOC charges are prohibited by law from taking

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Choose Life (Without Parole)

by Gene Donahue

The author, a Jesuit priest, is a professor in Creighton's School of Business

A few years ago, I was rejected from a jury pool because I was a member of the clergy. The county prosecutor told me this later, after the jury had rejected his "murder one" (first-degree) charge in favor of a manslaughter conviction. He said that had I been on this jury, the others in his office would have said, "What did you expect?"

That was my introduction to our jury system: prosecutors begin with the most serious charge and they reject jurors who may be perceived as "soft on criminals." Since Nebraska has a possible death penalty for a "murder one" conviction, I heard the judge himself question other potential jurors as to whether or not they had any qualms about convicting someone of a crime for which the person might be executed. Only those without such scruples were allowed to sit in judgment as to whether or not the (presumed innocent) person even committed such a crime.

There are questions which may be raised about the impartiality of the above process, especially since Nebraska's capital punishment statutes require two separate procedures: a trial to determine the verdict and a separate hearing to determine the sentence. When only those willing to impose a particular sentence are included in the original jury, the intended separation between verdict and sentence is clearly violated.

The recent return of John Joubert from Maine, which does not have the death penalty, to join 11 others on Nebraska's death row has been greeted with enthusiasm by many who wish to see justice done and this convicted murderer killed in turn.

There has been a good deal of research done on how we make ethical decisions. Psychologists such as Piaget, Kohlberg and Gilligan have found that individuals move through various stages of moral reasoning as they mature, and I would like briefly to sketch Kohlberg's theory. I have found his stages helpful in understanding not only how individuals but also how groups of people can

sincerely make differing judgments (and laws) about moral issues.

The main point of this essay is to show how we as individuals and as a society can and do evolve in our moral thinking. Our senators in Nebraska's legislature are currently debating LB 327, a bill which would basically revise our state's statutes to eliminate the death penalty and instead provide for life imprisonment without possibility of parole. It would also eliminate imposing the death penalty on persons under 18; require a change of penalty for death penalty sentences, and make other modifications to harmonize provisions of the law. On April 17, the legislature voted this bill out of the judiciary committee (where it was stuck on a tie vote) and it has a number of co-sponsors as well as being a priority of the Speaker, Dennis Baack. If it passes in the Unicameral (which has scheduled a recess for June 5), it will then present a moral choice for Governor Nelson, whose attorney general opposes it. If the governor vetoes the bill, informed sources tell me there are currently not enough votes to override it.

What should the Governor and our state senators do? We can analyze some of the debate currently going on by means of Kohlberg's three major levels of moral reasoning: pre-conventional, conventional, and post-conventional thinking. People in the pre-conventional level view themselves as "outside" the group. Moral rules are made up by "them," and they obey authorities in order to be rewarded or to avoid punishment. Their

moral horizon is bounded by their own self-interest, for doing the right thing means looking out for one's own interests in a world where everyone else is understood to be doing likewise. This type of moral universe is common among children, and it is also found in some adults.

The vast majority of adults, however, according to Kohlberg, is in the conventional level of moral reasoning. These people see themselves as members of society, and doing the right thing means either pleasing those close to them (e.g., parents, peer group, spouse, boss) or observing the laws of one's society. If something is acceptable by those I care about or if it is legal, then it is morally good. "Love it or leave it."

The founders of this great nation, however, wisely established a republic whose official morality lies in Kohlberg's third, or post-conventional, level. Persons here experience themselves as bound by certain principles which they need to uphold, whether or not they are currently popular or even legal. These are rational principles such as the "inalienable rights" which come from the "Creator," not the state; principles such as equality and justice; and the principle of the "greatest good for the greatest number." If our (or any) nation's laws violate these fundamental principles or human rights then they are considered unjust and without moral force. Blacks who broke tradition by sitting in the front of the bus or by asking to be served in "whites only" restaurants were often using this type of moral reasoning, and they were eventually vindicated by the Supreme Court.

We need to ask our Governor and senators

if our state's statutes should not also be revised as LB 327 proposes. The death penalty has frequently been shown to be not necessary to protect the public (life sentence without parole will do that); not effective as a deterrent; not rehabilitating or reconciling for the person; not capable of restoring what was lost to the victim; and not being administered equally to the poor or to minorities. Such a practice is a remnant of racism and class prejudice which is not countering, but is rather fostering, the cycle of violence that racks our country. If we wish to reduce the violence in our nation then we need to discover the violence within our own hearts that tolerates the administration of unfair and unequal justice to our fellow citizens.

In the world community, Amnesty International now ranks the USA with China, Iran and Iraq as foremost in numbers of executions. Even South Africa has suspended executions, leaving us as the only industrialized Western nation with a death penalty. Is this where we want Nebraska to be ranked?

The best strain of the Judeo-Christian tradition would also remind us that "The Lord God does not wish the sinner to die, but to turn to him and live" (Ezekiel 33:11). Killing criminals removes the possibility of their conversion, whereas the goal of ethical punishment is the redemption of the offender, not vengeance. Call or write your Senator and Governor about LB 327.

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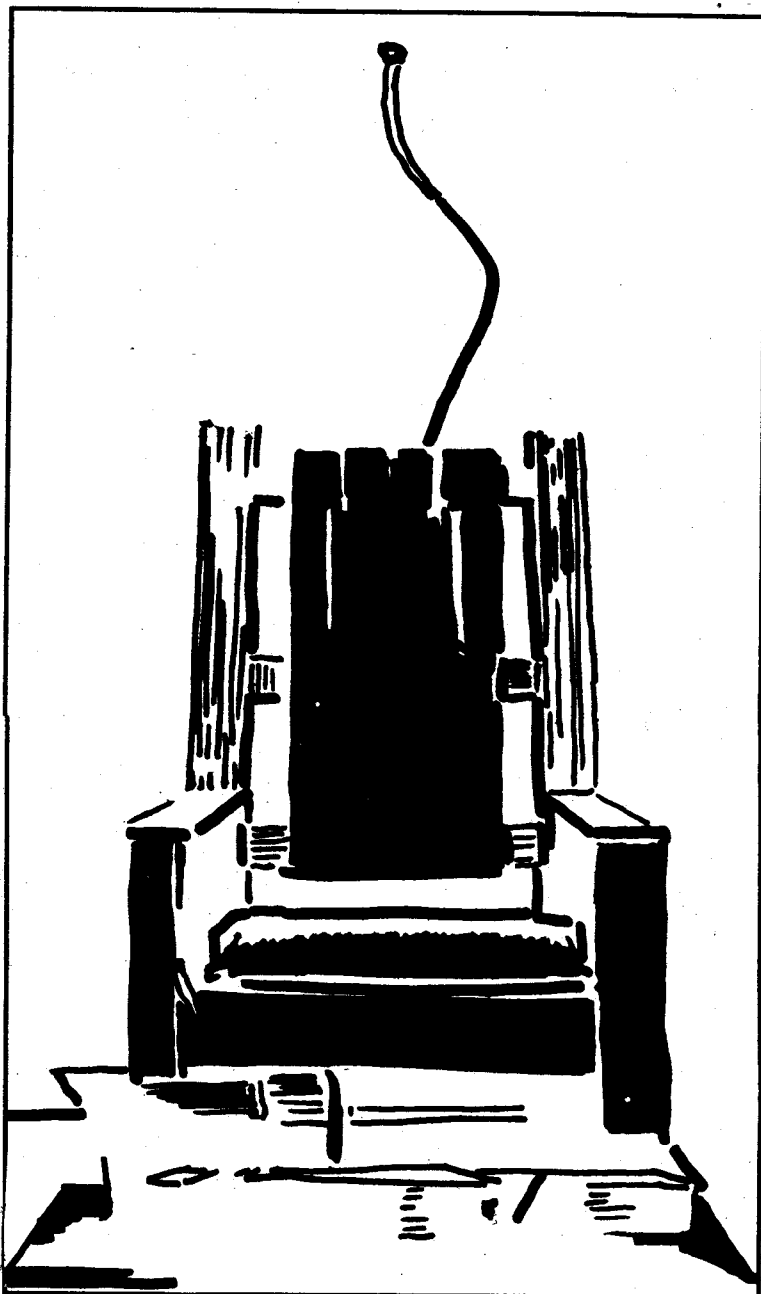
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Prison Physician Speaks Out

Medical Ethics Conflict With the Death Penalty



By Kim Marie Thorburn, M.D.

I am a prison physician. One of my first positions was as a staff physician at San Quentin Prison which houses California's death row population and the gas chamber. At that time there were fewer than 100 condemned men, but enough to overflow the designated death row housing unit into another secured housing area. (Condemned inmates are never mixed with general population inmates.) There were no executions during my tenure at the prison. California has not executed anyone in 23 years.

I am also an abolitionist--an activist against the death penalty. In California, the combination of abolitionist and prison physician was problematic for me. The system sought to gag me through disciplinary means and to stifle my advancement because of my position on the death penalty.

Attendance Required in Death Chamber

California requires that two physicians be present in the death chamber during an execution. One of the physicians is responsible for monitoring the vital functions and pronouncing the moment of death. The other

physician cares for people in the audience who faint or otherwise become seriously disturbed by the unpleasant spectacle.

I knew of the regulatory requirement when I was hired. I informed the chief medical officer who hired me that I was unwilling to accept the position if it meant that I might have to attend an execution and he agreed to that condition. However, it became clear that other prison officials in the California Department of Corrections believed that attendance at executions was a responsibility of prison physicians.

Doctors are almost always present at executions to certify death. "Certification of death" often means monitoring vital functions during the actual act of the execution. Such participation may become active assistance. In California the only method of execution at present is cyanide gas, which involves other methods. However, electrocutions are frequently not fatal after the first or subsequent jolts of electricity. The monitoring physician becomes the executioner, ordering more electricity to cause death.

Associations Urge Abolition

The symbolism of the "death chamber ritual" moved into a medical clinic is profound. The trappings of the healing profession are all there: gurney, needles, drugs, intravenous drip and line. As more states enacted "death by injection" laws, several medical organizations adopted resolutions prohibiting physician participation in execution. These include the World Medical Association, American Medical Association, several state medical associations and the American Public Health Association is the only major health professional organization in the United States that has called for the abolition of the death penalty.

State Legislature Overturns Physicians' Lobby

In 1984, I persuaded the California Medical Association to introduce a bill to the state legislature to prohibit the corrections department from sanctioning state physicians who refused to attend or participate in executions. The state medical association is quite a

powerful lobby in California. They saw this bill as means to protect physician autonomy. They fought hard for its passage but could not overcome the even more powerful opposition of the corrections department. Fortunately for me, a job came along in an abolitionist state before I had to refuse being called to the death chamber.

Not all states have been as invasive of physician autonomy as California when it comes to the death penalty but sadly, I am aware of examples of prison doctors who have willingly attended and participated. In September 1990, the medical community was distressed by reports that doctors carried out an execution by lethal injection in Illinois. Charles Walker was the first person to be executed there in 26 years. He had given up on appeals in 1988. Illinois governor James Thompson refused to commute the sentence even though there were questions about the constitutionality of the Illinois death penalty law. On the execution day, three doctors administered an antihistamine prior to the lethal drugs, inserted the intravenous cannula and monitored the electrocardiogram in an adjacent room. I don't think such willingness is the norm. In a recent survey about ethical problems of health professionals who work in correctional settings, involvement in the death penalty was ranked among the most troublesome.

Treating the Condemned

The death chamber is not the only place where prison physicians

are faced with dilemmas related to the death penalty. Medical care for condemned inmates also presents problems. As an internist, I had to make decisions with the condemned patient about care of life-threatening conditions. Did I treat the patient for his or her illness so that he or she might live to later be executed in the death chamber? For psychiatrists, care of condemned patients, especially psychotic ones, is a dilemma. One is ethically bound to relieve suffering which implies treating the psychosis. However, such treatment may restore competence, making the patient eligible for execution. Louisiana is seeking to force James Perry to take antipsychotic medication in order to execute him. If the state prevails, the involvement of the medical profession will be clear.

Death Penalty and Human Rights

On December 15, 1989, the United States General Assembly adopted the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights Aiming at the Abolition of the Death Penalty. A nation which is party to this international treaty agrees not to carry out any executions and to "take all necessary measures to abolish the death penalty within its jurisdiction." The 1989 General Assembly action reflects a worldwide trend: each year more nations become abolitionist. Amnesty International takes the position that the death penalty is a violation of fundamental human rights: the right to life and the right to be free from torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

In contrast, the United States increases the use of the death penalty. Executions in some states have become more frequent in recent years. The federal government reinstituted capital punishment for some crimes last year and lawmakers clamor for more.

U.S. Executes Youth

The United States has violated internationally recognized protections in its application of the death penalty. A number of international instruments prohibit execution of juveniles less than 18 years of age. The world was shocked several years ago when Indiana sentenced a 15-year-old girl to death.

As though to cover up the violations of human rights, executions in the United States are cloaked in ritualistic "humaneness"--the death watch visits from family members, other loved ones and the chaplain. A special last meal is chosen by the condemned person.

As long as we have the death penalty, doctors will be involved. Despite the profession's protest that participation in the death penalty violated medical ethics, United States law and state regulations have made doctors an integral part of the process. Decisions about the death penalty cannot be individual moral choices by physicians. Medical professionals should support human rights and demand the abolition of the death penalty.

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Crew Size and Real Pay Cuts Key in Rail Strike

by Frances Mendenhall

There are approximately 235,000 railway workers represented by 11 rail unions whose last negotiated contract ended July 1, 1988. Since that time railroad executives, represented by the National Carriers Conference Committee, and railroad workers, represented by the Railway Labor Executive Association, have been in negotiations and cooling-off periods, and have been unsuccessful in reaching resolution for a new contract. Late last year President Bush appointed a Presidential Emergency Board to hear both parties' input for a new contract. After hearing both parties' input the Board made its recommendations on January 15.

Republican President Bush has long been a friend of railroad management. Drew Lewis, CEO of Union Pacific, used to be secretary of transportation under the Reagan administration. The railroads hired Mary McAuliffe, a former senatorial aide with ties to the Commerce and Finance committees. McAuliffe was to lobby Congress to force the un-

ions to accept the Presidential Emergency Board findings.

Most interested parties expected Bush's appointments to the Presidential Emergency Board to have the same philosophy as railroad management. For the most part, that is what happened. For example, in the area of work rule concessions, the Burlington Northern management wanted to assign train dispatchers to shifts and territories without regard to seniority, and the board findings went along with this philosophy. UPRR's Mike Walsh publicly urged Congress to force the Presidential Emergency Board's recommendations on the unions.

Dennis Timmermann, assistant state legislative director for the United Transportation Union, is critical of management's methods. "From the beginning, railroad management stonewalled at the bargaining table and refused to bargain in good faith, adopting the strategy of forcing the unions to strike," he said. "They knew that a strike would allow the administration to enforce the Presidential

Emergency Board's findings by calling a national emergency and ending the strike. What they didn't anticipate was the appointment of a new Presidential Emergency Board."

The result of the findings was that railroad workers would take a 22 percent cut in earning power from the end of the last contract to the end of the proposed new contract: wage increases would total only 10 percent for the life of the contract (July 1988 to July 1994); cost-of-living increases would total 11 percent, but portions of that would be used for health benefits. This health care provision was won many years ago, with the railroads agreeing to fund it totally in exchange for certain concessions. The Board also granted the railroads permission to spend the money previously put aside in a fund to ensure that the health care provisions would remain solvent. No retroactive pay was recommended.

Other board recommendations could cost thousands of jobs. For example, the Board recommended increasing a standard day's travel for train crews from 108 to 130 miles.

And it proposed an arbitration procedure which would likely lead to smaller crews.

Reduced Crew Size

The United Transportation Union says if management gets what it wants, 18,000 UTU members will lose their jobs. According to Timmermann, the UTU has made concessions on crew size on a railroad to railroad basis, but the industry has not utilized these concessions. "When technology works the way it is supposed to," said Timmermann, "the UTU isn't opposed to making adjustments for that, but we want to lessen the impact as much as possible."

What management wants, according to columnist Peter Rachleff, writing for the St. Paul Pioneer Press Dispatch, is

"to eliminate 58 percent of the current ground service employees, largely by doing away with most brakeman's positions and cutting the standard crew size from four to

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Cronyism, Not Competition, Props Up Exec Pay

Reprinted with permission from *The New Republic*, April 8, 1991.

by Michael Kinsley

Last year's economic news wasn't bad for everyone. It's annual report season for America's corporations, and according to the *New York Times* top executives got pay increases averaging 8 to 15 percent. That's pretty modest compared with the rip-roaring 1980s, but 8 percent is not bad in a year when the economy entered a recession. Did you do that well? In one study cited by the *Times*, median compensation for 176 CEOs was \$1.7 million in 1990. That well you surely didn't do.

When executive pay increases faster than the economy — which happened not just last year but for the past couple of decades — that means other people's share of America's bounty is decreasing. It's another little piece of the general trend toward greater income inequality in the American economy.

Critics of this sort of talk say that the size of the pie matters more than the size of the slices. And they're right: if greater inequality is part of an economic process generating greater prosperity for all, it's easier to accept without qualms. The question is whether the connection exists. Executive pay raises the question in miniature. Does a 15 percent raise for the chairman of General Megalopolitan lead to a smaller, but still nourishing, pay increase for the line workers and secretaries?

During the 1980s boom years, this thesis was at least plausible. The economy was growing, corporate profits were soaring, unemployment was shrinking. Huge increases in top executive pay were held to be the reward for success. Often given in the form of stock options, whose value depends on the company's performance, pay raises were also

held to be the reward for risk-taking. Corporate CEOs were being re-engineered from plutocrats into entrepreneurs, and American capitalism was being re-energized as a result.

But entrepreneurs don't simply get more modest increases when times are bad. They actually bring home less. If the "risk" executives were taking was merely that in bad years their raises would only amount to two or three times the rate of inflation, that hardly justified the raises of 20 to 30 times the rate of inflation they got during the good years. Some corporations have even retroactively revalued their executives' stock options (the right to buy shares at a pre-set price) to reflect the sad fact that the stock didn't go up as hoped. This, of course, defeats the whole point of rewarding executives for performance. Now that the increase in top executive pay — both absolute and relative to other workers in the economy — has continued through two cycles of boom and bust, it is hard to explain as a healthy midcourse correction in the long successful range of American capitalism.

New Republic editors Mickey Kaus and Robert B. Reich have both argued that changes in the world economy are making people who work with their minds more valuable and people who work with their hands and bodies less valuable. Reich calls the lucky winners of this process "symbolic analysts." Whereas blue-collar workers must increasingly compete with labor from the impoverished Third World, this same global economic integration sets off worldwide competition for the unique talents of those who peddle ideas and decisions. Whether you think this is a good thing or a bad thing, it may be inevitable.

Could this process explain the explosion in executive pay? Louis Uchitelle of the *Times*

reports that CEOs of large companies typically make 70 or 80 times what an average worker does — and the gap has more than doubled in the past 15 years. But Uchitelle also reports that American CEOs "earn almost twice as much as... in Canada and Germany, which rank second and third." Japan is famous for its modest executive pay, both compared with America and relative to a company's workers. Clearly international competition cannot explain why American top executives are paid more and more each year. It ought to have the opposite effect.

In truth, competition and other free market virtues have almost nothing to do with determining what top corporate executives get paid. Top executive compensation is generally set by the compensation committee of the board of directors. The members are almost always outside directors — that is, board members who are not also executives of the company itself. But they are most often executives of some other company. And they are chosen by the board — itself a cushy deal — by the executives whose pay they are deciding. Both these factors give them every incentive not to be chintzy.

There are consulting firms that advise corporations on executive pay levels. Their conclusions are generally based on "comparability" studies of what other firms are paying. This turns executive pay raises into a self-feeding process, and also into a genteel form of conspiracy in restraint of trade, as the consultants assure that no one breaks the executive-pay cartel.

Anyway, corporations aren't looking for bargains. Often quite the opposite. Top executive salaries are widely publicized and compared. What corporation wants to admit

that it got its CEO off the discount rack? In the American corporate culture, how much the top birds get fed can be a point of pride. This is rarely true regarding the lower-downs.

One claim often made by enthusiasts of the mergers and acquisitions frenzy of the 1980s was that, by reacquainting America's fat corporations with the rigors of the marketplace, the threat or reality of being acquired would whip companies into shape and cut out the flab. To some extent this happened, and many employees' careers were destroyed as a result. But the merger boom was no discernible restraint on excessive executive salaries. In fact, it may have had the opposite effect. By putting corporate executives in close proximity with financiers making hundreds of millions of dollars manipulating corporate assets — and by creating similar opportunities for executives themselves through leveraged buyouts — the M&A era just increased executives' hunger for higher pay, while doing little to prevent them from sating it.

So what should be done? Well, corporations are almost farcically sensitive to bad publicity. Constant harping on bloated executive pay, by the media and by opportunistic politicians, could itself bring some healthy restraint. So would noisier opposition from large industrial shareholders, such as pension funds. The government itself should probably stay out of this, at least directly. The overpaid CEO is just one example among many of fate's arbitrariness in financial matters. There's a remedy that addresses that arbitrariness in general rather than in each of its particulars. It's called progressive taxation.

Issues in the Rail Strike: Pay and Crew Size

Continued from previous page

two. They would then like to freeze the wages of the remaining engineers, conductors and brakemen, while extending the mileage standard for a work day by 60 percent.

"They would like track maintenance workers to travel hundreds of miles to work sites, but not begin to receive their pay until they actually begin work. If these workers need to stay overnight, the railroads would allow them \$29 a day for total motel and meal expenses. Of course, they could always flop for free in some convenient box car.

"These workers would also lose the standard Monday-Friday workweek that their union gained in 1949. Management would also like the right to subcontract for any repair work normally done in their shops."

Labor-Management Gap Widens

The cut in real earning power is perhaps the biggest sticking point for those in labor. Workers cannot understand why in a period of productivity, some of which is the result of their increased efficiency, their wages should not keep pace with inflation. This is especially vexing in the face of the generous increase realized by top level management.

The Wall Street Journal on February 19 reported that fourth quarter 1990 net income for all railroads rose 111 percent over 1989, while the national corporate average was a loss of 9 percent. At the same time railroad executives like Drew Lewis, president of U.P., experienced a 15 percent increase in compensation in 1989, to \$1.55 million, and a 23 percent increase in 1990, to \$1,910,000; unlike their counterparts in labor, railroad executives experienced a real increase in income in this period. The president of the Burlington Northern, Gerald Grinstein, received an increase of 8 percent to \$1.46 million in 1989. The chief of the Norfolk Southern, Arnold McKinnon, got an 11 percent pay increase to \$1.2 million. UPRR's Mike Walsh received a 10 percent increase in 1989, bringing his annual pay to \$935,000; in 1990 he received a 19 percent increase to \$1,110,000 (more than 11 times the salary of Warren Buffett). W.C. Keppen, in a recent article in Straight Track cited figures from Railroad Facts, a publication of the Association of American Railroads which speaks for the industry, on the wages of railroad employees in the category of executive/official. This group experienced an increase between 1984 and 1989 from \$47,647 to \$60,233 or 26 percent. At the same time the average wage of train and engine service employees went from \$40,457 to \$47,094, an increase of 16 percent. Union Pacific spokesperson Mark Davis, however, says that he and others in middle management have not had a cost of living increase in three or four years.

I asked Davis why the company thought it appropriate to be so generous with management? Davis feels it is necessary to keep good CEOs. Companies want to keep people with leadership talents or they go somewhere else.

"You're going to have to pay for (that) leadership," he said. "Is it fair? I don't know. The company has moved in a good direction and become more profitable in recent years, so I believe the overall policy--affecting how UP is going to survive--has been effective. Otherwise there is no security for anybody, labor or management."

The Strike

On April 17 the unions resorted to self-help, known to most people as a strike. Although the strike was national in scope the railroad workers tried to lessen the negative impact by not picketing commuter or passenger trains and by running the Metra. Unlike the strike in 1982, when management actually took over running the trains, this time management did nothing to minimize the damage to the economy. In fact, in one case in Chicago, they actually refused to allow commuter trains to run despite the fact that these were not being picketed; it was necessary to force them to reinstitute commuter/passenger service with a court order.

Mark Davis says they didn't run trains because they didn't have staff as a result of cutbacks. Whereas they were able to run the trains safely in 1982, that would have been impossible in 1991.

Railroads carry one third of the nation's freight. The auto industry said that its inventory would not permit their factories to continue operation after one to three days of a freight strike.

President Bush considered this a national emergency, but since Congress found the findings of the Presidential Emergency Board unacceptable it responded by passing a resolution to appoint a new Board. The new Presidential Emergency Board will have a representative from the original Board and two other members appointed by the Bush Administration who don't have railroad ties. They will work for 65 days ironing out disputes; at the end of that period both sides have to accept their modifications to the original findings.

Some key issues the Board should consider: to what extent is competition really necessitating decreases in real earnings of the workers? Do recent increases in productivity and corporate profits allow for a sharing of the wealth by labor as well as management? And what of the welfare of the public and the nation? Can quality of services be maintained in the face of a loss of real income by those delivering those services? Can safety be maintained? Railroads, especially Union Pacific, will increasingly be carrying hazardous cargo. Can these trains afford to operate without brakemen?

The rail industry does in fact face increasing competition from truckers. A fair goal for the settlement would be that both management and labor share in streamlining their work and that they both share in the rewards.

Two Important Laws That Affect Railroads

The Effects of Deregulation

The Staggers Act deregulated the rail industry in the 1970s, giving railroads a freer hand to do what they wanted. Some results:

--35,000 miles of track were abandoned or sold off as "shortlines," to be run on a non-union basis.

--22,000 jobs were eliminated.

--Valuable resources--property, land, natural gas reserves and the like--were spun off as separate corporations, while the railroads were left holding masses of debt.

--Executive salaries and perks skyrocketed, while those workers fortunate enough to still have jobs found their earnings lagging behind inflation and their schedules more and more disruptive of their family lives.

Some also believe that the Staggers Act ushered in an era of more ruthless negotiation by management.

Different Bargaining Rules for Railroads

Railroad and airline bargaining is governed by the Railway Labor Act (RLA) rather than the National Labor Relations Act. Under the RLA, union contracts do not "expire." When the expiration date arrives, existing contracts remain in effect indefinitely until certain prescribed procedures have been followed; negotiation, mediation, arbitration, and finally, the matter can be referred to a Presidential Emergency Board for a recommended settlement.

If either party has differences with the Presidential Emergency Board recommendations either party may seek self-help. For railroad management self-help is a lockout of employees. For railroad workers self-help is a strike.

At that time the president can declare a national emergency and Congress would end "self-help" and recommend the Presidential Emergency Board recommendations as a form of a new contract.

Does Sam Skinner Serve The Public Interest?

The following quotes from Transportation Secretary Samuel Skinner were reported in the Omaha World-Herald, April 29, 1991.

"I don't have a better friend than Drew Lewis," Skinner said during a talk at the Washington Marriott to the Society of Business Editors and Writers.

Lewis has been "somewhat of a mentor" to Skinner during his two years as head of the Transportation Department.

"He did, I think, provide a very good catalyst for information for me, procedurally, not substantially, but procedurally, on how the previous one was handled," Skinner said.

Skinner said Lewis "was involved some at the request of others, some at his own instigation, out of genuine concern to get this behind the nation because he had been involved in '82."

Transportation Secretary Samuel Skinner called Union Pacific Chairman Drew Lewis about 11 p.m. the night of the nationwide railroad strike to compare notes. Skinner on Monday recalled the conversation. "I said 'Drew, how long did it take you to settle the rail strike?'"

"'You son of a gun,' he says. 'I don't believe it, I don't believe it. You did a great job, though.' He and I joke about that all the time," Skinner said.

Dennis Timmermann, assistant state legislative director to UTU in Nebraska, questioned Skinner's objectivity. "It goes beyond whether Skinner can serve the American public; perhaps it's appropriate for Congress to determine whether Lewis' friendship with Skinner has influenced the appointments on the Presidential Emergency Board."

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Duplication of Services Not a Problem for Boys' Programs

United Way Might Defund Solomon Girls' Center

by DeCourcy Squire

The author recently moved back to Nebraska; she is a former Lincoln resident where she taught GED classes at the Malone Community Center, the Lancaster County Jail, and the Sacred Heart Annex, and was the coordinator of Nebraskans Against the Death Penalty. Currently she lives in Omaha and works as a physical therapist.

"The United Way Mission: to increase the organized capacity of people to care for one another," reads the United Way brochure. "Pressing social issues, such as drug abuse and the problems of youth at risk, demand that the United Way be an even stronger catalyst in community problem solving."

In 1990 and 1991, the United Way was funding four programs that provided services to girls in the North Omaha area: Girls INC., Girl Scouts, Christ Child Center, and the Ruth K. Solomon Girls Center.

The Ruth K. Solomon Girls' Center is located at 1601 North 22nd Street. The Center, started in a basement on Charles Street, has served North Omaha girls for the past 25 years. It serves 280+ girls a year. "What you see here," Laura Partridge-Nedds, a member of the Center's volunteer advisory board, said, "are grassroots people, people who care about this neighborhood that they live in, who care about the young people, the young men and women who are growing up in this neighborhood, and who know that they have to be the ones that make an impact on their young people's lives."

Currently the Solomon Center faces a major crisis: located in a building at Logan Fontenelle Homes, a low-income housing

project which the Omaha Housing Authority (OHA) targeted for demolition last year, the Center has since then been trying to make plans to relocate. Now the Center is facing the possibility that United Way, the source of \$93,000 of the \$106,000 annual budget, may cease funding at the end of 1991. The budget pays for five staff people as well as transportation costs for the Center's two vans, supplies, utilities, phone bill, and Center activities.

Demolition of the project was to begin in March 1991. The proposal to move the Center led to the initiation by United Way of a study to determine what services are being provided to girls in North Omaha, and who should be funded to provide them. Although the study has not yet been completed, its possible conclusion--the de-funding of Solomon Center--has already created controversy.

"The issue," says Partridge-Nedds, "is one of community control versus decision making devoid of community input." She was speaking at the April 22 news conference to launch a petition campaign urging United Way to continue its funding of the Solomon Girls Center.

Relocation Possibilities

One early possibility for a new location suggested by OHA was the Martin Luther King Day Care Facility at 30th and Bedford. This fell through when the Girl Scouts, who had not previously had a base in North Omaha, were given that facility. By October 1990, several other potential sites were under consideration. With the help of Family Service, a funding request for \$100,000 to help with purchase and relocation costs was submitted to Kiewit Foundation. United Way was not

approached to fund the move.

While waiting to hear from Kiewit, the Center found that the potential sites would require extensive renovation of up to half a million dollars to come up to code. The staff continued to search.

In early December it finally seemed as if the problem might be solved: the Calvin Memorial Presbyterian Church building at North 24th and Wirt was on the market for \$115,000. Because it had housed a day care center, it would not need extensive renovation to come up to code. Everything was falling into place: the price was within reach since the Presbytery was willing to take a partial down-payment, with the balance to be paid over the next three years. The Kiewit Foundation was informed that the funding request for the Center would only need to be for \$50,000. Then things started to go wrong.

Study Required

Two days before the Family Service Board of Directors meeting at which the decision to purchase the building would be made, United Way (which had been kept informed through the year of Family Service's efforts to help the Center relocate) said that before any decision about relocation was made, a study needed to be done about the services provided by the Solomon Center. Larry Miller of United Way said the study was undertaken because the relocation of the Solomon Center would entail a large capital outlay (even though United Way was not asked to finance it). This was an issue because a second agency funded by United Way to provide services to North Omaha girls, Girls Inc., was also contemplating a move.

Since the OHA demolition was scheduled to begin in March 1991, the Solomon Center understood that United Way proposed to have the study completed by mid-February 1991. But the study is still in process. The opportunity to purchase the Calvin Memorial Presbyterian Church vanished when another church purchased the building.

At the beginning of April, according to Advisory Committee member Judy Maddocks, Tony Harris of United Way, who was conducting part of the study, said he had completed what he was going to do and had turned it over to Jim Sullivan, Vice-President of United Way. On April 9, Sullivan met with Faye Douglas, director of the Center, and Peter Tulipana, director of Family Service. The next day Tulipana and Douglas conveyed to the Advisory Committee what Sullivan had told them: that when the study went to the United Way Board of Directors, he was leaning towards recommending that United Way no longer fund the Center past December 31, 1991. Moreover, the Center was not to move out of Logan Fontenelle. Arrangements were made with OHA to enable the Center to stay until the end of the year despite the demolition, with a promise that its building would be

the last to be destroyed. But as Jeff Maddocks, chair of the Center's Relocation Committee said, "... with all the demolition and the asbestos problem they're going to have down here, we are really concerned about ... the children coming into here.... So we're not going to wait around for them [OHA] to come to us last. We want to get out of here."

Meanwhile, according to a recent World-Herald article, Girls Inc. is negotiating the purchase of the Clifton Hill elementary school building from Omaha Public Schools because it wishes to have a larger building than the current space at 37th and Lake provides. Girls Inc. hopes to get the building for \$1 because the cost of renovations is estimated to be \$1.5 million. The fact that a United Way study is under way apparently does not affect the freedom of Girls Inc. to explore relocation plans.

Larry Miller, vice-president of marketing and communications of United Way of the Midlands, praises the program and points out that United Way has supported the program since 1986 with increasing grants. "They have a good program and everyone knows this," he says. "The services are needed."

But the question remains: why is United Way staff discouraging the Solomon Center from continuing its relocation search, while supporting the move and expansion of Girls Inc.? Jeanette Clements, a Center parent and member of the Advisory Committee suggested, "They're trying to get the children that go here to merge and what we're saying is we don't want an either/or situation. All programs are needed for the North Omaha young women.... We have the North Branch YMCA and we have the Boys Club which are within blocks of each other. But we don't hear about 'duplication of services' and we don't hear that there is not enough funding--and those are within blocks of each other."

United Way officials have been at pains to point out that its study of services to girls in North Omaha has not been completed. At this point, United Way is giving the end of May or early June as the completion date. The reason the study was not completed by the end of March, which was the original target date, was that they ended up talking to more people and doing a more in-depth study than they had originally envisioned. United Way also insists that no decisions have yet been made.

Of the Solomon Center's fears that it may be de-funded, Miller of United Way says, "Some people have gotten the impression that this is an either/or situation. That is incorrect. Though they may have to relocate, our concern is that the services continue to be provided." While stating that the services the Solomon Center provides will be continued, Miller still leaves open the possibility that an organization other than the Solomon Center

A Haven For Girls Five and Older

Twenty-one-year-old Creighton student Gail Williams sat next to Laura Partridge-Nedds in front of a poster which United Way used in one of its campaigns. It was a picture of Gail; United Way used her as a success story of the Solomon Center, to help raise United Way funds. Gail had attended Solomon Center from the time she was 5 years old. She says the Center was "more than just a place to come and play. I remember taking dance and piano lessons and going to different workshops about career planning and attending college, furthering my education. And those things I don't think I would have had an opportunity to be involved in if [the Center] was not right there for me."

Angela Williams, 19, (no relation to Gail) is another young woman for whom the Solomon Center was a haven. She too began coming to the Center when she was

5, and says of the girls she knew there, "Everybody still knows everybody. It's like a big family." Many of the girls come to the Center every day after school (except Mondays, when it is closed) to take part in the hobbies and fine arts programs, to get help with their homework, and to spend time with other girls and adults who care. The Solomon Center reports that on an average day, there are 65-70 girls at the Center. On Saturdays there are workshops on such topics as career planning or drug awareness, trips to the park, and other activities. The emphases of the program are on developing self esteem, teaching coping skills, and encouraging college and career planning. Angela also praised the Solomon Center for being supportive when girls became pregnant. "Instead of turning us away, they brought us back in and helped us become young mothers while still planning a career."

Continued on following page

Solomon Center Faces Problems Relocating, Uncertain Funding; United Way Promises That 'Services' Will Continue

Continued from previous page

may be funded to provide those services. However, when asked whether there was a similar question about whether the services now supplied by Girls' Inc. would continue to be supplied by Girls' Inc., he said no. The difference between the situation of the Solomon Center and Girls' Inc. is that the Solomon Center may not have a place to move to, while if Girls' Inc.'s building search falls through they can continue where they are. United Way has reiterated that no recommendations have been officially given to its board of directors and it is the board of directors that will have the final say, no matter what the United Way staff recommends. The Center Advisory Committee members remain concerned.

They hope they can prevent the de-funding by asking the community to let the United Way Board of Directors know that the program is valued and necessary. They are not only circulating petitions but also suggesting that United Way contributors call the United Way Board to ask that the Center's funding be continued. As Carrie Simms, chair of the Solomon Center's Advisory Board, says, "The buck doesn't stop at United Way...those decisions have to come from the people at large, and that's what we're asking for today—for the people at large, for the community, to know that we are here—and that we need them and they need us."

Empowerment vs. Patronage

The Advisory Committee press statement points out, "United Way has opted to conduct a study and to have a decision made on that study without having any of the target community involved in the process—except as objects of the study. None of those making the decision are a part of the Solomon service community. Even though the United Way board used to have some poor people among its members, it no longer does."

The United Way decisions are made by the volunteer board with input from not only the staff but also from a structure of Planning and Allocation committees, made up of volunteer citizens. According to Miller, United Way "looks for diversity—economically, and of race and sex; we try to get as much of a mix as possible." How many of the committee members are from North Omaha is difficult to say.

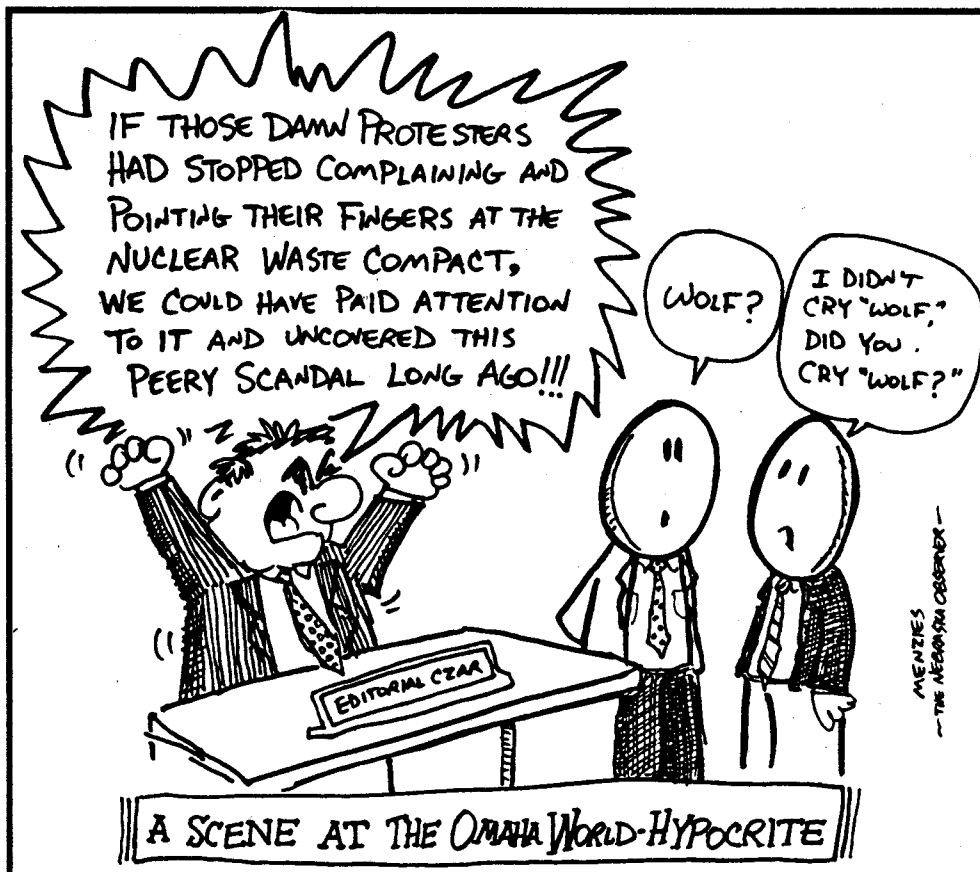
In the opinion of this author, the situation faced by the Solomon Center resembles social change movements from the Civil Rights movement to the women's movement in this respect: it is often hard to gain more than lip service for the concept that those affected by decisions are the ones who should have a say

in the making of those decisions—particularly when those in question have been the poor, the disenfranchised, the "outsiders."

Are grassroots programs like the Solomon Center replaceable?

Simms says, "We're unique in that we're a monument here. We have a history here that no one else has...a 25 year history will be diminished if in fact this program closes. We have more to offer than just mere programs. I think the strength of this program is that we stayed here in the midst of the gang wars, in the midst of the shootings...we have roots here."

For more information about the Solomon Center, call 346-0718.



Meow! Which Kitty Trashed Nancy?



Dear Lulu:

I am just appalled by this new trashy book on Nancy Reagan -- "The Unauthorized Biography," by Kitty Carlisle of all people! Why, she was my absolute favorite on "To Tell the Truth" and they wouldn't have permitted this kind of garbage on the show. And to such a sweetheart as Nancy Reagan! Bless my stars! Will these Democrats stop at nothing?

Love, Nancy in Nantucket

Dear Nancy:

You're a little confused. The "Unauthorized" biography of Mrs. Reagan is by Kitty Kelley, that stellar journalist who seems to specialize in filling our need for dirty tidbits on such public persona as Elizabeth Taylor, Frank Sinatra and Jackie Oh! So Kitty Carlisle's claim to fame is still only as the inventor of the helmet hairdo.

Love, Lulu

Dear Lulu:

I was very interested in the new training video put out by the Los Angeles Police

Department. I'd like to get one to show at our next Lutheran Ladies Aid Meeting. We've had some trouble keeping our members in line and this may give us some ideas. I see that L.A. Police Chief Daryl Gates says he hopes this video changes the life of the volunteer in the movie, Rodney King. What do you think?

Love, Freida in Friend

Dear Freida:

I think the beating will definitely change Mr. King's life. He's probably going to own as much of the L.A. Police Station as the \$56 million lawsuit he's filed will buy. Hope your meeting goes well. Be sure to serve those Lutheran favorites -- Snickerdoodles and fried grease.

Love, Lulu

Dear Lulu:

I read in the World-Herald that Barbara Bush recently had a lesion removed. Can you explain this?

Love, A Barbara-Watcher in Bartlett

Dear Barb:

Prior to his fine performance in the Persian Gulf, George was the primary lesion on Barbara. While it's being kept hush-hush, most assume they're trying to remove Dan Quayle from both Barbara and George, to be replaced with a "Stormin' Norman" or a new Colin (Powell). Hope this helps.

Love, Lulu

Dear Lulu:

Ever since the Persian Gulf crisis I've had a high fever, coated tongue and a burning desire to be a Republican. My neighbor's got it. My mother's got it. Even my senile Democrat grandpa from old Virginia's got it. What's happening?!!

Love, A Former Dixiecrat from Dexter

Dear Former:

Many things make up their minds based on what others do. Sheep, fans of Oral Roberts and lemmings come to mind immediately. Perhaps these feelings are seeping out even more than we used to think. Sort of like the flu. Take some Alka-Seltzer Plus and lie down. Remember -- you don't live your life in a Hoover vacuum.

Love, Lulu

Dear Lulu:

I recently read how a lady was complaining to Abby or Ann about how she was easily mugged because she carried a big purse instead of a small pocketbook. Well, let me tell you there's more danger in big purses than a burglary scare or two. I used to carry this gorgeous 10-pound wooden handbag -- red, it was -- steel-edged with sequins, rhinestones and gold tassels spelling out the words "Go Cornhuskers" on the side. "Old Jewels," I called her. Oh, I cry when I remember her now. But one day an innocent young man came up to my blind side in the supermarket and startled me, causing me to turn quickly and Old Jewels hit his jewels, and there went his chances at family happiness. Oh, Lulu, he's maimed for life. His little wife tells me that he just sits around trying to match swatches of cloth to rolls of wallpaper. Please tell your readers to throw their big purses away, and perhaps my guilt will be assuaged.

Love, A Purse-Person in Pierce

Dear Purse:

There you are. For whatever it's worth. For whatever "assuaged" means.

Love, Lulu

'Saturday Night Sex' Has Consequences

African American Fathers Must Be Responsible For Their Children

by A'Jamal-Rashad Byndon

I awoke Saturday, April 20, to read an Omaha World-Herald article concerning the increased birth rate among Nebraskans. What was particularly startling in this article was the number of out-of-wedlock births to African Americans. In 1989, more than 70 percent of all births to African American women in Nebraska were out-of-wedlock, contrasted to 15 percent for white women. These figures indicate that something is remiss in our community.

Recently, at a community forum, one African American raised the question of how many women could live without welfare. A few raised their hands. Then, he asked, why don't you? There was an eerie silence in the room. It was the right question but directed to the wrong folks. The question that should have been asked of these women was, where are the fathers of these children? Frequently, in our community people engage in capricious sex and somehow expect the state to bail them out.

The March issue of the NAACP's Crisis reported that in 1988 African Americans comprised 39.8 percent of the 3.7 million families on welfare; whites made up 38.8 percent (page 22). What is shocking about these figures is that whites constitute about 180 million (78 percent) of the United States population and African Americans about 30 million (14 percent). In Nebraska, African Americans are about 4 percent of the population, yet are close to 35 percent of those on welfare. In essence, there is a disintegration of the African American family.

The question is: what is the crux of these anomalies and what can be done about it?

First, one can start by holding men accountable for their behavior. If we published in the newspapers the names of fathers who were deficient in child support payments and the fathers of out-of-wedlock babies, we would tend to see a rapid decline of this irresponsible Saturday night sex. Moreover, it's ironic that many are attempting to address the lack of proper role models when they fail to address the lack of income and factors which cause deleterious problems for families.

The speaker at the forum raised a number of interesting comments regarding that the only places where women could socialize were the church or the local watering hole. Meanwhile, we are raising a group of young men who don't know the meaning of responsibility or how to develop meaningful relationships with the opposite sex. The African American community is being controlled and misled by a few vocal misfits who are failing to focus on internal problems of self-develop-

ment. As the least among us attempt to apply for employment, many lack the basic educational requisites to fill out the application -- in spite of having completed 12 years of school.

One person in the Crisis article was quoted as saying, "We have a welfare system which stifles our creativity to survive." There is a need for models to be developed for people to be rewarded for getting off of welfare.

Second, there is a need for stronger enforcement of child-support collection policies. I was told by a group of mothers who gave the names of their children's fathers how futile that process was for them. The maze of bureaucracy could not garnish money because of the fathers' ability to play cat and mouse with the welfare officials. Some men do pay their fair share, but welfare benefits are reduced by that same amount, therefore, there are no extra funds to help the family. It is as though the welfare authorities collect a share for their efforts. One could argue that the state needs to be paid back for supporting that family. However, when will the state realize it would be better off helping the family achieve self-sufficiency?

We cannot afford to have public dollars thrown at fly-by-night programs, or unproven experiments wasted on our community.

A recent study in Philadelphia reported in U.S. News and World Report cited that 76 percent of the juvenile delinquencies in that city were committed by children of single-parent families. I would venture a guess that many single-parent families are dysfunctional and ripe for chaos. It is difficult to raise children in today's society.

The amount of funds doled out by welfare departments in this country are an insult and a travesty. We could wipe out poverty by giving every family an income above the poverty level. It is ironic that during the war in Iraq, not one penny was spared to bring high-tech weapons to bear on Iraq. Meanwhile, we actually debate the importance of giving people who live in this country enough food. Proportionally one can acquire more funds from the U.S. Government by being a citizen of a Central American country engaged in a civil war or a fascist country proposing to fight communism.

As we move into the 21st century, we must address the disproportionate numbers of fatherless homes and out-of-wedlock births if we are going to collectively improve our plight. As of now, it appears that the best we can do is to dig a hole in the ground and protect our turf against the outside gangs who romp and wreak havoc on many innocent people.

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L E T T E R S

City Destroying Trees

Dear Editor:

I feel strongly that any diseased or structurally damaged tree that threatens public safety should be quickly removed. However, I question if new curbs are an adequate justification for removal of healthy trees.

Right now the area from Pacific to Woolworth, Park Ave. to 31st is having its curbing replaced. That is going to cost the residents of that area seven mature trees. The two trees that I watched being removed had had their root structures undermined by removal of the existing curbing and the roots themselves shaved off by construction equipment; but otherwise appeared to be perfectly healthy trees. Adjoining areas are also scheduled to have their curbing replaced this year!

I have made several phone calls to city departments about this, and it appears that there is some shared responsibility for the loss of the trees. I called and wrote my city councilperson who was very supportive. Maybe additional letters would be helpful.

We in the inner city live fairly close together surrounded by a lot of concrete as it is. Removing our trees is going to affect the quality of our lives both aesthetically and economically. Isn't there a less destructive way? Couldn't we, in this tree-conscious era find a way to spare all healthy trees? If not, shouldn't citizens be given notice of impending construction (destruction) and allowed to make the choice themselves? In this case, old trees or new curbs.

Rita Hamilton
345-2532

Lyme Disease

Dear Editor:

Good article on Dr. Marshall. What you didn't mention is that after 50 years of study and god knows how many billions of dollars, the MS foundation still doesn't know what causes MS (they assume it is a viral disease; they have never found a virus) and they still have no cure! But strangely, they are absolutely sure of what it isn't, without testing. So don't ask Doc Marshall for "facts" without demanding same from MS society! After all, Dr. Marshall has evidence of curing "incurable" MS that was really Lyme's. (Has the MS Society any cures of MS, whether that MS is Lyme's or MS, if there really is a difference?) Shouldn't all MS be tested by antibiotic treatment that cures Lyme's, just in case of misdiagnosis? And why isn't Lyme's, which showed such excellent (but not long lasting) results from malaria therapy, treated with machine hyperthermia, which can easily give much larger thermal doses than malaria? In just a few hour's time, with negligible side effects?

And shouldn't your article have carried the information that it was based upon information furnished by Dr. Marshall? As you credited the Sojourner article? I will admit that your article is much better written than Dr. Marshall's, and eliminates the conflicts within Dr. Marshall's letter.

In sum, what I am bitching about is mostly the bias of the medical establishment, in this case the MS society, and not your write-up. So, many thanks for this article.

Art Dutky
Chairman,
Committee for Hyperthermia Awareness

The Other Viewpoint
In the Old Home Town

Dear Editor:

I was born and educated in Omaha, went into TV production in New York and eventually gravitated to Network News, where, for 25 years I worked in TV journalism. I never took a course in that discipline but I have always maintained that journalism school is fine for those who want or need it, but unnecessary for those who do not. A dentist, apparently, has now proved my point.

I have not seen your newspaper nor have I seen much of the World-Herald in recent years so I have no judgment on the current value of either. But after reading Colman McCarthy's article in the National Catholic Reporter, I crave a subscription to your publication.

Please put me on your list and allow me the satisfaction of observing the obligatory other viewpoint in my old home town.

Sincerely,

Dan O'Connor
Roxbury, Conn.

Norplant and the
Playboy Philosophy

Dear Madam:

Hello. Are you a Norplant woman? Here's more messing around with a woman's endocrine system. Step right up and get your birth control pills or Norplant. Now boys are different, don't you know? Poor little poopsies. No anabolic steroids or endocrine-altering drugs for them. No siree. Might shrink their

precious balls, give them cancer, or grow hair on their foreheads. Poor babies. But for you girls? No problem. Anything perversely sexist here in the so-called woman's liberation movement? Playboy loves it, you can be sure and Norplant will fit nicely into all the playboys' vision of how women are to be used and abused. Time perhaps for some very quiet reflection by the women of this country?

Fredrick Porter

'Thanks for Your
Wonderful Mission'

Dear Editor:

It is with genuine interest that I read the column about the "toothless World-Herald" by Colman McCarthy in the National Catholic Reporter. Congratulations!

I share your commitment to social advocacy. Like you, though, I have no background at all in journalism.

My wife and I moved to this area a couple of years ago when she signified interest in making her contribution to the health care of Native Americans. We don't know what enterprise may attract us next, but we are open to possibilities that may emerge. In the meantime, I have been doing some writing and speaking.

I am writing you at this time to commend you for that wonderful advocacy or ministry (pardon my inadequacy of words) for which you are so well disposed.

Take care and keep up that energy level!
Robert Z. Apostol

Kelley Book Serves Vindictive Nancy Right

by Colman McCarthy

WASHINGTON — All politics may be local, as Tip O'Neill believed. It's also image, as Nancy Reagan knows to the point of obsession. All Kitty Kelley has done in 603 pages of biographical details and opinions, that look behind the front(s) that Nancy Reagan, the most image-conscious First Lady of our time, strove mightily to present.

Kelley's book isn't Robert Caro on Lyndon Johnson, David Garrow on Martin Luther King Jr., nor Edmond Morris on Theodore Roosevelt. It does stand, though, as an aggressive and well-lawyered work from Simon & Schuster, a house that's anything but the National Enquirer of U.S. publishing. One of its other authors is Ronald Reagan. Kelley won't win the National Book Award for biography, but she has a fair chance of succeeding at what the public occasionally lusts for, soft-core muckraking. Her last rake, on Frank Sinatra, sold more copies than any other biography in publishing history.

One reason the Nancy Reagan account could top the Sinatra book is that the former

First Lady herself wielded a mammoth brush to lacquer her own persona. She invited close inspection. Anyone in public life risks that something more than media love-taps loom ahead.

This was an irk that Nancy Reagan emphatically resisted. She used the cosmetics she found available at the White House — from eager beaver p.r. artists to such chummy press sycophants as George Will — to prettify herself and her husband. She chose to deal in fakery — the caring drug crusader, the champion of the elderly poor — betting that the inside story could forever be kept inside, which it rarely can at that high a level. From the top, gravity pulls everything down, oozing muck included.

If Kelley has produced trash, as Nancy partisans protest, it's from the same literary assembly line on which Reagan toiled. Her book, "My Turn," a ghosted memoir of her White House years, was a score-settling narrative that revealed a woman with prodigious grudge-bearing talents. Few who had ever crossed here were spared, including some

who didn't but happened not to have served King Ronnie in the royal manner his queen demanded. In "My Turn," Reagan turned on her daughter, the troubled and troublesome Patti, by unstitching old wounds the pair had inflicted on each other. Patti herself had taken to the printed page in "Home Front," to zap Mommie dearest. Stepson Michael produced his autobiography, an exercise in nastiness that suggested a family vacillating between feuding and writing.

Kelley is verifier as much as a biographer. Throughout Reagan's Washington years, her critics persistently argued that she was adept at fakery and only a cut above con artistry. When criticism didn't abate — while much of the country was happy to be feeling upbeat about her husband after four years of the pious and morose Jimmy Carter — it was commonly dismissed as partisan cranking from the never-pleased Left.

Now Kelley comes forward with a collection of facts and testimonies that offer at least partial verification that the critics were right all along: Ronald Reagan was a vapid puppet

and manipulative Nancy was a puller of his strings. While this eight-year Nancy Reagan stage show was running, often to raves from reviewers who had their own political or social reasons to go along with the act, perspective was all but impossible.

A bit of focus can now be tried for. The unpleasantness of the duplicities revealed by Kitty Kelley might have been avoided had Nancy Reagan not been so ferocious in stage-managing her husband and promoting herself. The popularity of Barbara Bush is traceable to the opposite approach. She lets George do it. She presents herself to the citizenry with a take-me-as-I-am attitude.

The literature of harmless lowdown is assured an avid market. That would have been a niftier title for Kelley's book: "The Lowdown on Nancy." Reagan should have understood the first law of damage control: If you're painting yourself into a corner, either stop painting or get a smaller brush.

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Or How About the Washington Blossoms?

D.C. Goes to Bat for... The Washington Shredders?

by Colman McCarthy

WASHINGTON — Over the right-field foul pole at Robert F. Kennedy Stadium where the Baltimore Orioles and Red Sox were playing exhibition games last weekend, some baseball fans — called partisan provincials in any other context — hung a banner from the middle deck: "We deserve it! D.C. in '93."

Whether as a demand or a prayer, the sentiment could have adorned the rafters in five other cities — Buffalo, Denver, Miami, Orlando and Tampa-St. Petersburg — where the business of baseball has become everyone's business. In mid-June, a committee of National League officials is scheduled to decide which two of the six contending cities will be awarded an expansion baseball team. "All baseball fans believe in miracles," John Updike wrote, "the question is, how many do you believe in?"

Of late, talk in the six cities has been about the potential for miracles at the cash register: projected revenues from television, season-ticket pledges and equity statements of future investors. The money men are remembering the economics of Horace Stoneham, owner of the New York Giants when the team left the Polo Grounds for San Francisco in 1961. When a reporter asked, "How do you feel about the kids in New York from whom you

are taking the Giants," Stoneham had an answer from the bottom line: "I feel bad about the kids, but I haven't seen many of their fathers lately."

I saw more fathers than I could count at one of the Orioles-Red Sox games last weekend. Mothers, too, plus grandparents, college kids, people who walked in from the neighborhood and those from the suburbs who rode over on the subway.

Of course Washington, capital of the nation, deserves a team to play the game of the nation. It's symmetry.

Our case would have been stronger had the team president risen higher than an inch to the occasion by selecting "Nationals" as the new name. Judging from the other sports, we have deficiencies of imagination. Our basketball team is the Washington Bullets, slightly less gross than what might have been: the Washington Handguns. The football team is the Redskins, a racial slur.

With baseball coming, let's get transcendent. The former team, which left in 1971, was called the Senators, a passable name in the old days when not many people knew much about senators. Now we do. If politics is going to be involved, instead of *Washington Senators*, let's field the *Washington Honoraria*.

A precedent for naming local baseball teams is to look to the workplace. The Brewers are in Milwaukee, the Rangers in Texas and Mariners in Seattle. By that standard, we should be the Washington Shredders, that being a major occupation and pastime here, day and night. Headline writers would be comfortable with it: "Shredders Shred Dodgers in Four Straight."

Some teams go to nonhuman species for names: Cubs, Blue Jays, Cardinals, Orioles, Tigers. Miami is considering panthers, although Swamp Rats, more plentiful in South Florida than big cats, would be truer. Except for calling ourselves the Washington Night Owls, which would be getting us back to politicians, the only animal we're known for is the panda. Like most others here, Ling-Ling and Hsing-Hsing aren't natives, only transplants. If that's an acceptable category, why not the Washington Blossoms, after the Japanese cherry blossom trees that are the sparkle of springtime in the capital?

No big league team is named after a person, although a few go with types of people: Padres, Indians, Yankees, Braves and, for the spiritual, the Angels. Two people are worthy of a Washington baseball team's name: Shirley Povich and Walt Whitman.

The Washington Shirleys would honor a

living sportswriter who filed his first story for The Washington Post in 1922, which was 19 years after Connie Mack, born in the Lincoln administration, began managing Philadelphia. In 1941, Shirley Povich was pushing for an end to diamond racism: "There's a couple of million dollars worth of baseball talent on the loose, ready for the big leagues, yet unsigned by any major league. There are pitchers who should win 20 games a season...and outfielders (who) could hit .350, infielders who could win recognition as stars...Only one thing is keeping them out of the big leagues, the pigmentation of their skin. They happen to be colored."

And why Walt Whitman? Aside from being America's master poet who nursed the Civil War wound on Georgia Avenue in Washington, he predicted this: "I see great things in baseball. It's our game — the American game. It will take our people out-of-doors, fill them with oxygen, fire them larger physical stoicism. Tend to relieve us from being a nervous, dyspeptic set. Repair these losses, and be a blessing to us."

The Washington Whitmans. The Washington Shirleys. The Washington Blossoms...Lots of other choices. But first a team. We deserve.

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Ruby Wins Sexual Harassment, Loses Sex Discrimination Suit

Continued from page 1

retaliatory action against the plaintiff.

In winter of 1989, after P.J. Morgan was elected, Ruby was again moved against her will, this time back to the Planning Department. She resisted the move because her previous job was gone. By then, according to Dowd, she was reduced to doing the same level of work she had started out with in 1976. Ruby resigned in February of this year.

The Work Environment

There was also no question as to the existence of sexually charged and intimidating environment. Consider the lipstick story. Ruby's colleague Steve Jensen took her lipstick out of her purse and carved it into the shape of a penis. Several hours later, when she took it out to use it, the others in the room were waiting for the fun and Ruby was embarrassed. The incident was referred to in the department repeatedly over the years. Other women were reminded of it by Jensen.

The language used in the department was loaded with "honey" this and "babe" that. Ruby's husband Alan testified that Benson said to him at a 1976 party, "your wife's a bitch; she should stay home," but Benson denied any memory of such a statement. Worse than the language was the humor, as Garneth Peterson learned. Peterson passed Tom Blair, a male colleague, in the hall. Blair looked Peterson over and audibly assessed her to another male: "Nice tits, but you'd have to put

a bag over her head to fuck her." Blair never was brought in to give testimony to refute Peterson's; no one in the court doubted that the story was genuine.

In August 1989 S.P. Benson had a birthday party. A stripper showed up at the sixth floor planning department office during office hours. The stripper quickly got down to the basics, that is, almost nude. Then she spent 15 to 20 minutes flirting and rubbing up against Benson. Lisa Lemble, concerned that families or children might walk in, stood guard at the door while the stripper was carrying on. Later Lemble complained at several levels, but failed to get anyone to take action. Benson was never reprimanded.

The testimony was peppered with repeated objections from the plaintiff's attorney, Tom Dowd. Even so, at one point, the judge dismissed the jury and complained to both attorneys that certain witnesses, especially Walt Calinger, were offering inappropriate, self-justifying testimony. "I just won't tolerate it," Judge Strom said.

In spite of the above, the jury, seven men and five women, ruled against Ruby on the sex discrimination charges. They did, however, uphold her charge of sexual harassment. As this is being written, there is still a possibility that the judge will rule favorably on the Title VII charges—for harassment—possibly carrying a compensatory award, but not punitive. The ruling cannot have any punitive or other damages attached, because the jury has

already ruled that out. So as it stands, Ruby's case was ruled only in small part in her favor.

Ruby feels that the jury responded to her in a way that reflects community standards, and that those standards speak poorly of the city's potential for social progress.

It is not hard to agree with her, at least where the Planning Department is concerned. In the last two years other women besides Ruby—Garneth Peterson, Lisa Lemble, Lou Meyer, and Lynn Bjorkman—have parted company with the Planning Department and sought better working environments. In this writer's opinion, the city is poorer for their loss. Why those in charge failed to work harder to keep qualified women, one who was black, is just more testimony to their insensitivity to the importance of affirmative action. Why they failed to nurture the professionalism brought by these women (Ruby and Peterson had masters degrees, and Ruby brought the perspective of a planner, while the entrenched males were not board certified, and some were undegreed) instead of chasing them out, is a sad commentary on the vision of our city leaders.

The key players, including S.P. Benson are apparently still doing what they always have done, and it seems possible that neither the court's gentle slap on their wrists nor recent litigation-inspired "sexual harassment" workshops held for the planning department will be adequate motivation for them to clean up their act.

You cannot make sexist behavior go away by asking nicely. I once asked a dentist to please stop referring to his female subordinates as "girls." His response was to slap my back and say "honey, I've been doing this for 40 years, and I'm too old to change now." I almost choked him.

S.P. Benson made no apology for his use of the term "babe." "I'm 59, and I've been doing it for 40 years," he said in testimony.

Susan Ruby has never considered herself a crusading feminist. At 17, she was a finalist in the Miss Teenage Toledo pageant. Her first major job was as a flight hostess for TWA. Ruby is weary now, and doubts that the battle was worth it. She and her husband have made plans to move to the West Coast.

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Recyclables Going to the Dump

Waste Management's Wisconsin Operation

by Richard Winton

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Many Madison apartment building owners are paying Waste Management Inc. to collect recyclables. Tenants are participating because they believe it is better to recycle than to throw away. What neither owners nor tenants know, however, is that many of these recyclables are ending up in a Walworth County landfill.

"A lot of it ends up being contaminated and has to be landfilled," says George Dreckmann, Madison recycling coordinator of Waste Management's apartment recycling program. "It looks to me that it's an ineffective system."

But Will Flower, the company's regional senior manager for community relations in Oak Brook, Ill., says, "Any material that can be recycled is recycled."

Flower acknowledges "there is some material contaminated at the point of generation," as well as "some breakage" of recycling bags used by apartment dwellers. In these cases, Flower says, "those recyclables are getting landfilled." But, he insists, "that's a minimal number of cases."

Three Options

When Madison's mandatory recycling ordinance went into effect Feb. 11, Waste Management, one of several major waste-disposal companies, offered apartment owners three recycling program options: a three-Dumpster scheme (for recyclable containers, paper and trash), a two-Dumpster scheme (for recyclables and trash) and a cheaper one-Dumpster scheme using the company's pink Recycle America bags.

Many apartment owners opted for the cheaper scheme. Tenants place their recyclables in the pink Recycle America bags in the same Dumpster as their regular trash. The whole load is then trucked by Waste Management to the county's recycling center.

As the recycling center's builder and operator, Waste Management uses part of the facility to recycle the garbage it collects from private apartments, state offices, UW-Madison buildings, and residences in the city of Rockford, Ill.

At the recycling center, located near the Beltline behind American TV, the garbage containing the pink bags is dumped onto the floor. Then, according to Waste Management, the pink bags are removed, and the remaining trash carted off to a landfill.

But John Reindl, Dane County recycling coordinator, says many of the Recycle America bags are breaking open in the trucks. "I've walked through the [recycle center]," he says. "There's piles of materials. Many of the pink

bags are ripped open."

"Apartment owners are paying to recycle, and it's not happening," says one Dane County official familiar with Waste Management's operation. "It's been landfilled outside the county."

"It's a disaster," the official says. "No one is digging into the pile of trash to find the pink bags."

Flower disagrees: "It's untrue to say that we do not sort through and pull out the pink bags." Still, he says the company did experience problems with the bag scheme early on. Flower says some of the bags broke because the material they contained was too heavy or too wet.

"When we were able to identify the problem," Flower says, "we went back to the customer and said, obviously the individual Dumpster is not for you--we'll switch you to a two-Dumpster system."

Since January, when the county's Rodefild landfill stopped accepting recyclables, Waste Management has stopped using the facility to dump the garbage it collects from apartment sites. Michael DiMaggio, Rodefild landfill supervisor, says Waste Management trucks leaving the recycling center "definitely go to Mallard's Ridge"--a Waste Management-owned landfill in Walworth County.

"I see them on the highway," DiMaggio says. "An awful lot of trucks go down there."

Flower explains: "Given the opportunity for us to dispose of materials in a third-party landfill or one of our own landfills, we will opt to dispose in one of our own... We feel our landfills are superior facilities."

Neither the state Department of Natural Resources nor Walworth County officials know what is dumped in the Mallard's Ridge landfill.

After 1995, no state landfill will be legally able to accept recyclables. Presently, however, there may be nothing the city or the county can do to prevent waste haulers from disposing of recyclables outside of Dane County.

Dreckmann says the city's recycling ordinance only bars the dumping of recyclables in county dumps. The only part of the ordinance that could apply, he says, refers to maintaining recyclables "so as to maintain their value."

Reindl says the county is concerned that Waste Management's pink-bag scheme is not working, but notes that "as long as recyclables are not delivered to Dane County's landfill, we have no jurisdiction."

Even the county's contract with Waste Management to operate the recycling center provides no redress, says Reindl: "It had no strings on what they do."

Last June, Dane County Executive Rick Phelps, responding to concerns about Waste



Management's history of environmental violations, told Isthmus that the county's contract with Waste Management would be rock solid. "Unlike a landfill," Phelps said, "if something goes wrong with the recycling center, we can take over at short notice."

At least one area municipality, the city of Fitchburg, anticipated problems with Waste Management's pink-bag scheme. Sherry Gruder Adams, former Fitchburg recycling coordinator, says the city experimented with the bags during its 12-week apartment recycling pilot program, but found that the bagged recyclables became mixed and dirty in the trash trucks, making them unmarketable. Consequently, Fitchburg passed an ordinance preventing waste-haulers from offering single-bin programs there.

Asked why Madison didn't adopt a Fitchburg-style ordinance, mayoral aide Jane Richardson replies, "They chose to do it, we didn't." Richardson says the city, which plans to look into the matter, "hopes [Waste Management] is complying with the spirit of the recycling ordinance."

Why Blue Bags Are Stronger Than Pink Bags

Dear Editor:

The other day we received a copy of an article from the Isthmus Chronicle out of Wisconsin, entitled Recyclables Going to Waste. The pink bag program of Waste Management, where the recyclables were mixed with the garbage, was called "a disaster." This was in Madison, Wis. Most of the pink bags broke.

How could that be? Officials here, whether civic or otherwise, all assure us that no significant numbers of blue bags are breaking when compacted with the garbage.

I was stymied until I figured it out. The bags are not gender-neutral. Everyone knows that boy bags are stronger than girl bags.

Toni Curtin

Habitat Fundraiser Features Folk Music, May 19

"Musicians for Habitat" is the name of a concert scheduled for May 19, from 3 to 5 PM, at First Central Congregational Church, 421 S. 36th St. The concert is a benefit to raise funds for Habitat for Humanity's June Blitz--a one-week house raising.

Performers include local favorites Tom May, the Steven Rehbein Quintet, and the J.C. Collins Ensemble, plus Patrick Dodd, from Eugene, Oregon. Singer/songwriter Tom May is perhaps best known as host of River City Folk, a contemporary folk music program which has just been syndicated by National Public Radio. Steve Rehbein is a vibraphonist, percussionist, composer/arranger and leader of one cool quintet. The J.C. Collins ensemble is directed by Janice Collins Brooks, who says the group's focus is to tell the story of African Americans in song, especially within the gospel tradition. Folk singer Patrick Dodd is a self-described poet and provocateur. A native Kansan, he travels the country singing rough songs which challenge the American Dream.

Alonzo Smith is co-chairperson of the Social Concerns Committee of the First Unitarian Church, which is organizing the benefit. He said, "Our country is faced with a crisis: millions of families lack decent, affordable housing. Habitat for Humanity is helping to meet this need, and Omaha needs to help them." Tickets are \$5 in advance, and \$6 at the door. They can be ordered from Habitat for Humanity, PO Box 11104, Omaha, NE, 68111. For more information contact Ken Anderson at 345-9287 or Habitat for Humanity at 457-5657.

Free Trade Agreement Not an American Common Market

NAFTA Pushes Competition, Not Cooperation

by Annette Higby

It may be best to begin a description of the proposed North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) by saying what it is *not*. It is not an attempt to create a North American common market as in the European Community (E.C.). E.C. member countries have bound together to *cooperate* economically rather than compete.

Many E.C. policies are designed to give an economic advantage or at least a helping hand to its weaker members or regions. Such concepts run counter to the principles of free trade and this is most definitely not what the administration has in mind.

What they have in mind is a "North American Free Trade Area" where each region within North America utilizes its own unique comparative advantage -- whether it be climate, natural resources, infrastructure, cheap labor or lax environmental enforcement -- to produce what it produces best. There will be no molycoddling "inefficient" industries or regions.

The NAFTA is expected to free up restrictions on foreign investments, beef up protec-

tion for intellectual property rights and remove tariffs and non-tariff barriers in agriculture, autos, petrochemicals, insurance and banking services.

The U.S. is pushing a NAFTA despite the fact that the Mexican government has already undertaken a set of economic reforms designed to liberalize its economy and attract foreign investment. Mexico undertook these reforms under the burden of significant foreign debt (\$93.6 billion) and pressure from its lenders.

Since 1985 tariff and non-tariff barriers have been removed. National industries have been privatized and restrictions on foreign investment have been loosened. With some exceptions, Mexico's trade barriers are already lower than required under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Foreign-owned border industries specializing in production for export have flourished under the new reforms. Known as "Maquiladora" plants, these industries utilize cheap Mexican labor for the assembly of foreign-made components and receive special tariff treatment from the Mexican government and

the United States. These industries have played an important role in earning foreign exchange for the repayment of Mexican debt.

The Maquiladoras represent the kind of development path that perpetrates poverty rather than relieves it. The 1,699 Maquila plants in Mexico are predominantly U.S. owned, employ primarily young women at wage rates of less than a dollar an hour and have an environmental record that threatens the health of workers and residents on both sides of the border.

Mexico has historically had some of the most restrictive rules against foreign investment. Its basic laws are still restrictive and its Constitution forbids foreign control of its natural resources. The economic reforms undertaken have been largely administrative -- through the government's liberal interpretation of its restrictive laws still on the books.

A primary goal of the U.S. in undertaking a NAFTA with Mexico is to codify or lock in these economic reforms as part of an international trade agreement. A NAFTA would require Mexico to repeal or amend its underlying foreign investment and other trade laws, perhaps even its Constitution.

The International Trade Commission in a report released February 1991 said that codification of the liberalized investment and other rules would increase U.S. investment in Mexico.

In a March 27, 1991 letter to George Bush, Congressman Gephardt (D-Mo.) linked support of fast track extension to the inclusion of a number of so-called non-trade concerns in the NAFTA. Gephardt told Bush the administration must address wage disparities, health and safety standards, environmental standards and worker transition and retraining programs.

The administration has been asked to provide an action plan for dealing with these issues by May 1, 1991. Extension of the fast track seems to depend on how well the administration addresses these concerns.

Impact Upon U.S. Agriculture

The 1990 farm bill directed the U.S. Department of Agriculture to conduct a study of the impacts of a NAFTA on U.S. agriculture and to submit that study to Congress by March 31, 1991. The study is not yet completed but a preliminary report will be given at Congressional hearings later this month.

What is available is a report from the International Trade Commission (ITC) on the likely impacts of a NAFTA upon the U.S. The ITC study is largely speculative. It is based on interviews with experts in trade, industry, government and academia.

Overall the ITC found that any benefits to be gained by the U.S. from a NAFTA were likely to be small, even with significant growth in the Mexican economy because the Mexican economy is so small in relation to the U.S. economy. The ITC also said that unskilled U.S. workers would suffer declines in wages

and income under a NAFTA.

With respect to agriculture the ITC expects horticultural producers and processors to be the biggest losers as production and processing moves to Mexico to take advantage of cheaper labor. This could happen if the U.S. negotiates away its marketing order system which regulates supply to the U.S. market and Mexico makes the requisite changes to its investment laws. Differences in health and safety standards -- pesticide residues, for example -- are another "trade obstacle" which Congress should not allow the administration to negotiate away.

Grains and Oilseeds

The assumption is that our land base and infrastructure gives the U.S. a comparative advantage in grain production. If Mexico were forced to drop its import restriction on U.S. grains (60 percent of U.S. agricultural exports to Mexico still require an import license) the ITC believes that U.S. exports of feed grains would rise. This is a big assumption since the bulk of current grain exports to Mexico go under U.S. credit guarantees or some other form of export assistance. If the agreement outlawed export assistance it's possible that U.S. exports of grains to Mexico could actually decline.

Livestock

The ITC expects that the removal of U.S. duties and Mexican export fees on feeder cattle will do moderate damage to cow calf operators in the Southwest. They cite this as a short-term gain for U.S. cattle feeders who will have access to cheap feeders from Mexico. In the long term, however, they expect cattle feeding and meat packing to shift to Mexico to take advantage of cheaper labor costs, access to cheap U.S. feed grains and ready access to the U.S. market for beef.

New Farm Set-Aside Rule Helps Save Soil, Reduce Pesticides

by Fred Hoefner

A last-minute farm program rule change regarding set-aside (idled) acres has conservation-minded farmers smiling. Farmers will now have the option of planting conservation strips, including endrows, to cover crops and having them count toward their acreage reduction requirement.

"This single, simple change has the potential to greatly reduce soil loss and help farmers reach their conservation plan objectives," said Keith Mahany, a farmer member of the Nebraska Sustainable Agriculture Society.

Under the final regulations issued April 19, the U.S. Department of Agriculture reduced the minimum size requirements for set-aside parcels from no less than five acres at least 66 feet wide to a minimum width of 33 feet with no minimum acreage requirement in the case of strips and endrows that are seeded and maintained in a cover crop. This exception to the general rule will apply whether or not the practice is included in an approved conservation plan.

Allowing endrows to be counted in a farmer's required acreage set-aside could contribute to a notable reduction in soil erosion and chemical runoff since a covered endrow acts as a trap and a filter at the edge of a field.

After USDA issued proposed rules in January prohibiting endrows from being included in required set-asides, the Sustainable Agriculture Coalition launched a major legislative and regulatory campaign to reverse the rule. The effort paid off.

Farmers' frustrations with the unneces-

sary conflict between taking proper care of their land and meeting the terms of federal farm programs had prompted the campaign. Now the Coalition will work with all interested parties to get the word out and encourage farmers who want to utilize this option to let their county Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service office know of their plan. Under the annual Acreage Reduction Program, farmers must set aside a certain percentage of their cropland to qualify for farm program benefits.

"In addition to saving soil, this rule change will help reduce contamination of water supplies from overuse of chemicals," said Minnesota farmer Dwight Ault, a leader in the campaign. "This is a boost to ridge tillage, a farming practice that allows us to reduce pesticide use to low levels. Ridge tillers, who have great difficulties using endrows, now have a practical alternative."

Ault also note that the 66-foot rule discriminated against everyone but the largest producers whose large machinery needs very wide turning areas. Ault said, "The new rule restores a bit of equity to the set-aside program."

The Sustainable Agriculture Coalition is a network of a dozen Midwestern organizations that research new sustainable agriculture methods, and work for policy changes toward environmentally sound, sustainable farming programs.

The Coalition will be issuing an update to its popular "Farm Program Options Guide" to help publicize this rule change.

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ART NEWS

Richard Flamer has temporarily located his international gallery Sin Fronteras in the Old Market Passageway at 1018 Howard, down from the Souq. The gallery will be open through May 12 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., except Mondays.

The exhibit/sale features art from Central America: stone sculpture and engravings from Nicaragua; folk carvings and textiles from Guatemala; and drawings and watercolors from El Salvador.

Gallery Listings

Adam Whitney Gallery

8725 Shamrock Road, Omaha
393-1051
Hours: 10-5 Monday through Saturday

Anderson O'Brien Gallery

8724 Pacific St.

Antiquarium Gallery

1215 Harney Street, Omaha
341-8077
May 3: Opening reception 8-12 p.m., \$2 donation.

May 3-June 13: "Modern Culture Icons & Images," paintings by Tony McMilleon, paintings and drawings by Arthur Cruz.

Artists' Cooperative Gallery

405 So. 11th Street, Omaha
342-9617
Hours: Wed.-Thurs. 11-5; Fri. & Sat. 11-10; Sunday noon-5.
May 4: Opening reception for May show, 7-10 p.m.
May 1-31: Mary Kolar, constructions; Diane Lounsberry Williams, watermedia; Linda Meigs, pastels.
Call for current information, as the gallery is facing pending demolition to make room for the Old Market parking garage. Relocation plans are not yet firm.

Bellevue College Gallery

Galvin Road at Harvell Drive, Bellevue
293-3732
Hours: 8 a.m.-10 p.m. M-F; 9-5 Sat.; 1-5 Sun.
Through March 29: "5th Annual Metro Seniors Juried Art Show."

Bemis New Gallery

614 So. 11th, Omaha
341-7130
Hours: 11-5 daily.
Through April 16: New Work by Mary Beth Fogarty
May 9: Bemis Slide Lecture by Michael Langton (mixed media).
May 9-May 28: New Work by Michael Langton
June 13: Bemis Slide Lecture by Alberto de Braud & Norbert Kleinlein (ceramic

sculpture).

Cathedral Arts Project

St. Cecilia's Cathedral
701 No. 40th Street
558-3100
Hours 1-3:30 p.m. Thurs-Sun and by appointment.

Creighton Fine Arts Gallery

Creighton University
27th and California, Omaha
280-2509
Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Saturday; noon-4 Sunday.
May 1 - May 8: Juried Student Show

Eyesound Gallery

105 N. 50th
556-4432
Hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon-Sat.
Mixed media featuring work by John Thein, Kent Bellows, Paul Otero, Sue Knight and Dan Boylan.

Gallery 72

2709 Leavenworth, Omaha
345-3347

Garden of the Zodiac

Old Market Passageway, 1042 Howard, Omaha.
341-1877
Through May 26: Mixed media and sculptures by Randall Galaska.

Haydon Gallery

335 N. 8th, Hardy Building, Lincoln
475-5421
Hours: Mon-Sat 10-5.

Haymarket Art Gallery

119 So. 9th Street, Lincoln
475-1061
Hours: 10-5 p.m. Tues.-Sat.
May 5: Opening reception 2-4 p.m.
May 5-25: Main gallery, Patsy Smith watermedia; Eugene Kosmicki, handblown glass. South gallery, "Washington Revisited," multimedia by Judy Greff, Sue Olson-Mandler, Amy Sadle and Patsy Smith.

Hillmer Art Gallery

College of St. Mary, 1901 So. 72nd Street, Omaha
399-2621
Hours: 1-5 daily except Friday.

Joslyn Art Museum

2200 Dodge, Omaha
342-3300
Hours: 10-5 Tues., Wed., Fri. & Sat.; 10-9 Thurs.; 1-5 Sunday.
Admission: \$3 for adults, \$1.50 for seniors and under 12.
Free Saturday before noon and to mem-

bers.

Through August 11: "Oscar Howe: Traditionalist/Modernist," features a range of realist to abstract work by the Artist Laureate of South Dakota.
Through May 19: "Ralph Eugene Meatyard (1925-1972)," 35 works showing Meatyard's theatrical and often macabre scenes.
Through August 11: "Works on Paper: Artists of the 60s, 70s and 80s."
Through August 11: "Old Master Prints and Drawings."
May 23-Nov. 17: "Painting by the Rules: Academic Paintings from the Permanent Collection."

Local Artists Exchange

Standard Blue
1415 Harney, Omaha
Hours: 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon-Fri; noon-4 p.m. Sat & Sun.

Metro Arts Artspace

601 So. 16th Street
341-7910
Hours: Mon-Fri 9-4 or by appointment.
May 4: Opening reception 7-10 p.m. with music by Luigi Waites.
May 4-June 7: "People and Places," oil paintings by Vincent Hron.

Museum of Nebraska Art

24th and Central Ave., Kearney
(308) 234-8559
Hours: 1-5 Tuesday thru Saturday

Passageway Gallery

417 So. 11th, Omaha
341-1910
Hours: 11-5 M-W; 11-9 Thurs.; 11-10 Fri. & Sat.; 12-5 Sun.
May 4: Opening for May show, 7-10 p.m.
Through May: 10th Anniversary All-Member Show.

Photographer's Gallery, Inc.

4831 Dodge Street, Omaha
551-5731
Hours: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Mon.-Fri.; 1-5 Sun.; Closed Sat.; or by appointment anytime.

Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery

12th and R Streets, UNL Campus, Lincoln
472-2461
Hours: Tues. & Wed. 10-5; Sun. 2-9; Thurs.-Sat. 10-5 and 7-9; closed Mon.

13th Street Gallery

1264 So. 13th Street, Omaha
Mixed media

University of Nebraska at Omaha Gallery

616 S. 11th Street (second floor in CAT)
Hours: 10-5 Monday-Friday

Through May 10: B.F.A. Thesis Exhibition. Jadelyn Coffman, painting; William Morgan, sculpture & painting; Karla Pirruccello, painting; Timothy G. Hower, drawing & painting; Arthur Cruz, painting; Joan Fetter, painting.

Art Institute of Chicago

Michigan at Adams
Chicago, Ill.
(312) 443-3600
Hours: 10:30 -4:30 Mon., W, Wed.-Fri.; 10:30-8 Tues.; 10-5 Sat.; noon-5 Sun.
Suggested Admission: \$5; seniors, students, \$2.50.
Through June 23: "Selections from the Permanent Collection of Asian Art."
Through June 9: "A Distanced Land: The Photographs of John Pfahl," about 100 photos from the artist's nine series that critically explore man's alteration of the American landscape.
Through May 12: "High and Low: Modern Art and Popular Culture."
May 1-Sept. 3: "English and French Printed Textiles."
May 25-July 21: "Paul Strand: A Retrospective."

The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art

4525 Oak Street
Kansas City, Mo.
(816) 561-4000
Hours: 10-5 Tues.-Sat.; 1-5 Sunday.
Admission: \$4 adults; \$1 students.
Permanent collection free on Sat.
Through May 26: "South Asian Textiles from the Permanent Collection: Kashmiri Shawls."
Through June 9: "Treasures of the Jewish Museum."
May 15-July 14: "Nate Fors"
May 26-July 7: "Master Prints by Edvard Munch from the Epstein Family Collection."

Walker Gallery

Vineland Place
Minneapolis, Minn.
(612) 375-7622
(612) 375-7636 Recording
Tue-Sat, 10-8; Sun 11-5.
Permanent: Cowles Conservatory: Horticultural installation and "Standing Glass Fish" by Gehry.
Continuing: "The Legacy of surrealism," and Selections from the Permanent Collection.
Through June 23: "Edge of a City," an installation by Steven Holl, part of the Architecture Tomorrow series.
June 1-Aug. 18: "Material Matters: Permanent Collection Sculpture Since 1980."

a r e a e v e n t s

Note: Information was current as of press time, but changes may occur. Call for updates.

DIRECTORY OF VENUES:

Ak-Sar-Ben, 63rd & Center streets.
Ballet Omaha, performs at the Orpheum Theater, 346-7332.
Bellevue Little Theater, 203 W. Mission Ave., 291-1554.
Bemis Foundation/New Gallery, 614 S. 11th St., 341-7130. Open 11 a.m.-5 p.m. daily.
Bluffs Run Greyhound Race Track, I-80 & I-29 interchange in Council Bluffs, Iowa. 323-2500.
Center Stage Theater, 30th & Q streets, 733-5777.
Civic Auditorium, 18th & Capitol, 444-4750.
Creighton University, Performing Arts Center, 30th & Burt streets; Art Gallery, 27th & California streets, 280-2509.
Emmy Gifford Children's Theater, 3504 Center St., 345-4849.
Firehouse Theatre, 11th & Jackson streets, 346-8833.
Grande Olde Players, 701 S. 39th St., 391-7888.
Henry Doorly Zoo, 10th & Deer Park Blvd., 733-8400.
Joslyn Art Museum, 2200 Dodge St., 342-3300. Open Sun 1-5 p.m., closed Mon, Tue-Sat 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Thur 10 a.m.-9 p.m.
Magic Theatre, 1417 Farnam, 346-1227.
New Cinema, 1514 Davenport St., 346-8033. Screens film most weekends at 5:20, 7:30 & 9:40 Fri & Sat; Sun at 3 p.m.
Norton Theatre, 5021 Underwood, 551-7360.
Omaha Civic Auditorium, 18th & Capitol, 444-4750.
Omaha Childrens Museum, 500 S. 20th, 342-6164. Open Tue-Sat 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun 1-5 p.m.
Omaha Community Playhouse, 69th & Cass streets, 553-0800.
Omaha Lancers, professional hockey, 556-7825.
Omaha Racers, professional basketball, 551-5151.
Omaha Symphony Orchestra, see listings for venues, 342-3560.
Opera/Omaha, performs at the Orpheum Theater, 346-0357.
Orpheum Theater, 409 S. 16th St., 444-4750.
Peter Kiewit Conference Center, 1313 Farnam St.
Rosenblatt Stadium, 13th & Bert Murphy Drive, 734-2550.
SAC Museum, 2510 Clay Street, Bellevue, 292-2001.
Sheldon Film Theater, 12th & R streets in Lincoln. 472-5353.
Strauss Performing Arts Center, on the UNO Campus 63rd & Dodge.

Sunset Speedway, 114th & State, 493-5271.
University of Nebraska at Omaha, 63th & Dodge streets.
Upstairs Dinner Theater, 221 S. 19th St., 344-7777.
Western Heritage Museum, 801 S. 10th St., 444-5071.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Continuing: Bluffs Run Greyhound Race Track. Racing starts at 7:15 p.m. Tue-Sun with matinee racing at 3:15 p.m. Wed and 1:30 p.m. Sat & Sun.

Continuing: NASCAR Racing at Sunset Speedway, Sundays at 7 p.m.

Through May 13: Omaha Symphony Designer Showhouse at old Columbian School, 38th Ave. & Jones Street.

May 1-Aug. 12: Ak-Sar-Ben Thoroughbred Races. Post times are 4 p.m. Wed & Thur; 5 p.m. Fri, and 2 p.m. Sat & Sun. General admission is \$2.

May 3: 33rd Annual Ebony Fashion Fair at the Civic Auditorium Music Hall, 8 p.m.

May 3-5: Spring Festival — An Arts & Crafts Affair at the Civic Auditorium.

May 4: "With a Song in My Heart," a presentation by opera singer Michael Ballam and music therapist Deanna Edwards sponsored by Bishop Clarkson College at 7 p.m. at the Omaha Civic Auditorium Music Hall.

May 5: 2nd Annual Great Omaha Duck Stampede at Central Park Mall at 2 p.m.

May 5: Mary Crook's Birthday Party at the General Crook House Museum from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 455-9990 for details.

May 15-19: Florence Days Festival from 8300-8700 North 30th Street.

May 18-19: Creative Cats Show at the Civic Auditorium, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Sat and 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Sun.

May 18: Crawl Through the Planes Day at the SAC Museum — ten aircraft will be open, including some historic World War II aircraft, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

May 18: 60th Anniversary of Omaha's Union Station at the Western Heritage Museum, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

May 19: Nebraska Kennel Club All Breed Dog Show and Obedience Trial at the Civic Auditorium. Judging begins at 9 a.m. with best of show presentation about 3 p.m.

May 24-27: Midwest Mystery and Suspense Writers Convention at the Holiday Inn Central, 72nd and Grover. Call 334-1370 for details.

May 27: Old Fashioned Memorial Day Observance at Prospect Hill Cemetery, 32nd and Parker Street, 11 a.m.

EXHIBITS & DISPLAYS

Omaha Childrens Museum. Ongoing: "Trials to Yesterday," "Super Science" and "Lights! Camera! Action!"; through June 10: "Gateway to China."

Western Heritage Museum. Through August 11: "What Style Is It?" — a Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibition on architecture.

FILM

May 2-5: "Cyrano De Bergerac," a 1990 French film by Jean-Paul Rappeneau starring Gerard Depardieu at the Sheldon Film Theater nightly at 7 & 9:30 p.m. with matinees 12:30 & 3 p.m. Sat; 2 & 4:30 p.m. Sun.

May 3-5: "Speaking Parts," a 1989 Canadian film by Atom Egoyan at the New Cinema Theatre.

May 10-12: "New York Film Expo" at the New Cinema Theatre.

May 17-19: "Breathless," a 1959 French film by Jean Luc-Godard.

May 24-26: "Landscape of the Mist," a 1988 Greek film by Theo Angelopolous.

May 31-June 2: "Come See the Paradise," a 1990 United States film by Alan Parker.

MUSIC & DANCE

May 3&4: "The Big Band Sounds," an Omaha Symphony Superpops concert at 8 p.m. at the Orpheum.

May 5: Bagels & Bach with the Moran Woodwind Quintet at Joslyn Art Museum. General admission is \$6. Brunch begins at 10:30 a.m., concert at 11:15 a.m.

May 9&11: "Heroic Finale," classical concert by the Omaha Symphony, 8 p.m. at the Orpheum Theater.

May 16: Itzhak Perlman in concert with the Omaha Symphony, 8 p.m. at the Orpheum Theater.

May 18: Concept-Americana presented by the Omaha Symphonic Chorus at the UNO Strauss Performing Arts Center, 8 p.m.

May 22: Die Meistersingers in a patriotic concert with the Strategic Air Command at the Orpheum Theater, 8 p.m.

SPORTS

The Omaha Royals play professional baseball at Rosenblatt Stadium. Game times are generally 7:05 p.m. weekdays, 6:05 p.m. Saturday and 2:05 p.m. Sunday. Home games are:

May 1-3 vs. Iowa; May 4-6 vs. Denver; May 7 vs. Oklahoma City; May 9 vs. The Kansas City Royals; May 16-17 vs. Indianapolis; May 19-21 vs. Buffalo; May 22-24 vs. Columbus; May 25-25 vs. Toledo; June 11-13 vs. Denver (the Wednesday game is a 12:05 matinee); **May**

14&16 vs. Oklahoma City.

May 4: N.U.T.: The Nebraska Ultramarathon Tour bike race at Gretna from 6 a.m.-8 p.m. call 571-2162 for details.

May 14-17: Nebraska State Baseball Tournament playoffs at Rosenblatt Stadium.

May 23-25: Nebraska Special Olympics Summer Games at Creighton University. Call 731-5007 for details.

May 27: 1991 Boys Town Memorial Day Run at Boys Town, 9 a.m. Call 498-1424 for information.

May 31-June 8: College World Series at Rosenblatt Stadium.

June 1-2: 1991 MS150 "Nebraska Odyssey" Bike Tour from Crete to Chalco Hills. For information, call 345-9026.

THEATER

Through May 5: "Other People's Money" at the Firehouse Theatre.

Through May 5: "Sophisticated Ladies" at the Omaha Community Playhouse; Thu-Sat 8 p.m. & Sun 2 & 6:30 p.m.

Through May 12: "Hansel & Gretel Opera" at Norton Theatre.

Through May 11: "The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie," at the Omaha Community Playhouse. Tue-Sat at 8 p.m.; Sun 2 & 6:30 p.m.

May 14-July 7: "Lend Me a Tenor" at the Firehouse Theatre.

May 17-June 2: "Love Letters" at the Center Stage, Fri & Sat at 8 p.m.; Sun at 3 p.m.

Through May 26: "Curious George" at the Emmy Gifford Children's Theater, Fri at 7 p.m.; Sat & Sun at 2 p.m.

Through June 1: "Murder at the Howard Johnson's" at the Upstairs Dinner Theatre.

May 31-June 2: "Who's on First" at the Bellevue Little Theater.

May 31-June 30: "Hello Dolly" at the Omaha Community Playhouse.

May 2-4: "One Act Play Festival" at Creighton University Performing Arts Center.

Volunteer Opportunity

This is the last time John Boyd will prepare these two pages of calendar items.

If you would like to take the job over, call 551-2629

You must be able to use Word Perfect, Word Star, or any word processor that is compatible with PageMaker.

GUEST COLUMN

Picketing Restrictions Worst Possible Solution For Choice Advocates**LB818 Would Impede All Demonstrations**

The author is a former president of Youth for Peace, Omaha.

by Erich Christiansen

LB818, is being promoted by the pro-choice community because of a specific group's activities: the anti-choice demonstrators that gather at the clinics to harass the women entering. The latest newsletters of both Planned Parenthood and Nebraskans for Choice have encouraged support for the bill. It's easy enough to see that this bill would cripple the efforts of any organization to demonstrate publicly in any effective way. But it is this writer's considered view that this legislation is the worst possible way that choice advocates can deal with this problem.

LB818 would amend the existing statutes concerning mass picketing. Introduced by Sen. Chris Beutler, the law would extend the existing regulations governing labor-management picketing to all forms of demonstrations. According to the provisions of this bill, any form of mass picketing would be illegal which "interferes, or attempts to interfere" (Sec.1 <1>) with the entrance or exit of any person to or from a public facility "for any lawful purpose." In section two of the bill, mass picketing is accordingly defined as demonstrations involving "two or more people"

and held within 50 feet of a public facility (Sec.2 <1>). LB 818 would also require all protestors' signs to bear the name of the demonstrating organization in two-and-one-half-inch-thick block letters (Sec.2 <4>).

I have acted as an escort at the Women's Medical Center on 50th and L in Omaha, and am fully aware of the abuses that are practiced by the demonstrators there. Their presence intimidates and their conduct harasses the clients of the clinic. I would like nothing better than for these political troglodytes (that's cave-people, for you Rescuers) and the piper preachers that whip their meaningless little lives into a frenzy to go home and mind their own business.

However, I am at the same time an anti-war activist, and a member of Youth for Peace. I have participated in good-sized demonstrations and wandered through the Kafkaesque maze of regulations installed by city and state law, calculated to impede public displays of dissent. As it is worded, LB 818 would add to this already substantial body of law.

One of the problems of this bill is its inclusiveness. Just what exactly constitutes "interfering" with ingress and egress? Can

the intimidation factor of a group of demonstrators simply being there be interpreted as "interference"? Moreover, the type of business or facility is deliberately unspecified. Nowhere does this bill cite blocking of "medical facilities," as a Planned Parenthood article advertises it. This wording gives business owners (particularly businesses that are the subject of boycott demonstrations) reason to call the police on just about any demonstration within sight of their property. More importantly, it gives the police ample grounds for harassing and threatening demonstrators. I know from experience that the cops will do anything they possibly can to interfere with protests, and this new law would give them that much more leeway.

And speaking of the police, the fact that the pro-choice community is backing this type of legislation presents an ideological paradox that we as a movement must deal with. How can we demand individual choice, privacy, and freedom from government interference while *inviting* government interference by its most repressive arm, the police and courts, to enforce this? What of the inconsistency of trying to protect our own rights while possibly denying others theirs?

We clearly cannot trust the police for protection. They have shown themselves historically to be no friends of individual liberties or of women's rights. They are primarily violent, trained to deal with situations in violent ways. Not only is this true and wrong across the board, particularly in the case of demonstrators, but it creates the added problem of creating martyrs for the anti-choice forces--I'm sure we've all heard them whine about "police brutality" against Operation Rescue. Given my own anarchist tendencies, I'm more inclined to trust the escorts for security, volunteers who have no power or privileges, who simply care about people and want to protect the common good.

This bill becomes especially disappointing when one considers that the people who would normally speak out against such an infringement on civil liberties are not. According to the latest (Spring 1991) issue of NCLU News, the Nebraska Civil Liberties Union newsletter, the NCLU has taken the position of "neutral" in regard to LB 818. According to Bill Schatz, the director of the NCLU, this neutral position is because on the one hand "certain portions of the bill contained vague language," as has been discussed, but on the other hand that the bill could "extend the ability to demonstrate" to other groups than labor unions, since the bill would essentially extend the laws regarding union pickets to all kinds of pickets. One wonders, though, which side of this equation

would figure more prominently in the practical enforcement of such a law.

One can only guess why choice activists like the Planned Parenthood, and Nebraskans for Choice, and even such dedicated civil libertarians as Sen. Ernie Chambers (who in the judiciary committee voted to advance the bill to General file on Feb. 21) have resorted to this kind of legislation. Perhaps the movement has let its emotions carry it away, to the point of demanding immediate action on the problem of the demonstrators, regardless of the possible social consequences. Or perhaps the choice movement has become a single-issue concern, as myopic as the National Right to Life, concerned only with "their" issue and no other. This contention is possibly substantiated by the enormous number of people I see at pro-choice demonstrations that I see at no other political action.

However, it may be wise to look at other, less sincere motives for supporting this type of legislation. It may be no coincidence that the introduction of this bill (on Jan. 23) followed a series of relatively small but impassioned and highly unpopular Nebraska demonstrations against the Persian Gulf War, which included at least two acts of civil disobedience that resulted in arrests. It may also not be a coincidence that this bill comes in the wake of several attempts across the country to try to limit the rights of protesters, like the New England city council that proposed taking away the student loans of any students that were arrested during anti-war protests. I do not mean to suggest that these were the motivations of Senators Beutler, Landis, et al, when they introduced this bill, but I would insist that this is the trend that will be followed if LB818 is passed.

LB818 is currently out of committee (since March 19) and could theoretically be voted on at any time. However, it is not a priority bill, and so will probably not come up immediately. However, it is still imperative that our state senators be made aware as soon as possible that this bill will endanger more freedom than it protects.

Michigan Judge Links Racist Restriction to Abortion Rights

by Mimi Hall
USA TODAY

A Michigan judge who said he would grant permission for abortions only to white girls raped and impregnated by black men is creating a furor across the state.

Judge Francis Bourisseau told the Ludington (Mich.) Daily News he doesn't approve of abortion except in cases of rapes of whites by blacks and for victims of incest.

Under Michigan's new abortion law -- in effect since March 28 -- girls 17 and under must receive permission from one parent or a local judge before an abortion.

"I don't want to be the person to make the decision," Bourisseau told the paper. "I really don't believe in it."

Asked Thursday about his comments on rape, Bourisseau said, "I just told it like it was." Then he hung up.

The statement by the judge -- who has been on the Michigan bench 34 years -- was criticized by both abortion rights supporters and foes, who said his remarks clearly show why judges should not be allowed to decide on minors' abortions.

"This is furiously outrageous, and it is a perfect example of what happens when women's lives are subject to the whims and

prejudices of judges, lawyers and politicians," said Kate Michelman of the National Abortion Rights Action League.

Abortion foes say if abortion was banned nationwide, judges wouldn't have to be involved in the first place.

But without a ban, the National Right to Life Committee -- which opposes abortions except to save the woman -- supports laws like Michigan's.

"There haven't been these kinds of problems in the past," says NRLC's Nancy Myers. The laws "have had wonderful results."

Carol King of the Michigan Abortion Rights Action League said her group will file a complaint with the Judicial Tenure Commission -- Michigan's judicial watchdog group.

Michigan's chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union has already petitioned for a court order to bar one judge from deciding such cases after he said he would appoint a guardian for the fetus of any girl who came to his court.

Says the ACLU's Howard Simon: "If this report is accurate, then he (Bourisseau) displays some racial insensitivity and some ignorance of the law both in the same sentence."

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